

# The Razor's Edge

by IM Zoran Ilie

**M**odern tournament practice is dominated by Swiss-type tournaments which demand an extremely high percentage of wins in order to be among the prize winners. Draws don't mean much in open tournaments and this cruel fact has led to the rise of sharp systems in which Black strives for victory at all costs.

Doubtless, one of the most popular openings that leads unavoidably into complex play is the King's Indian Defense. Thanks to World Champion Garry Kasparov, this opening, which first became fashionable in the 50's, is experiencing a real renaissance.

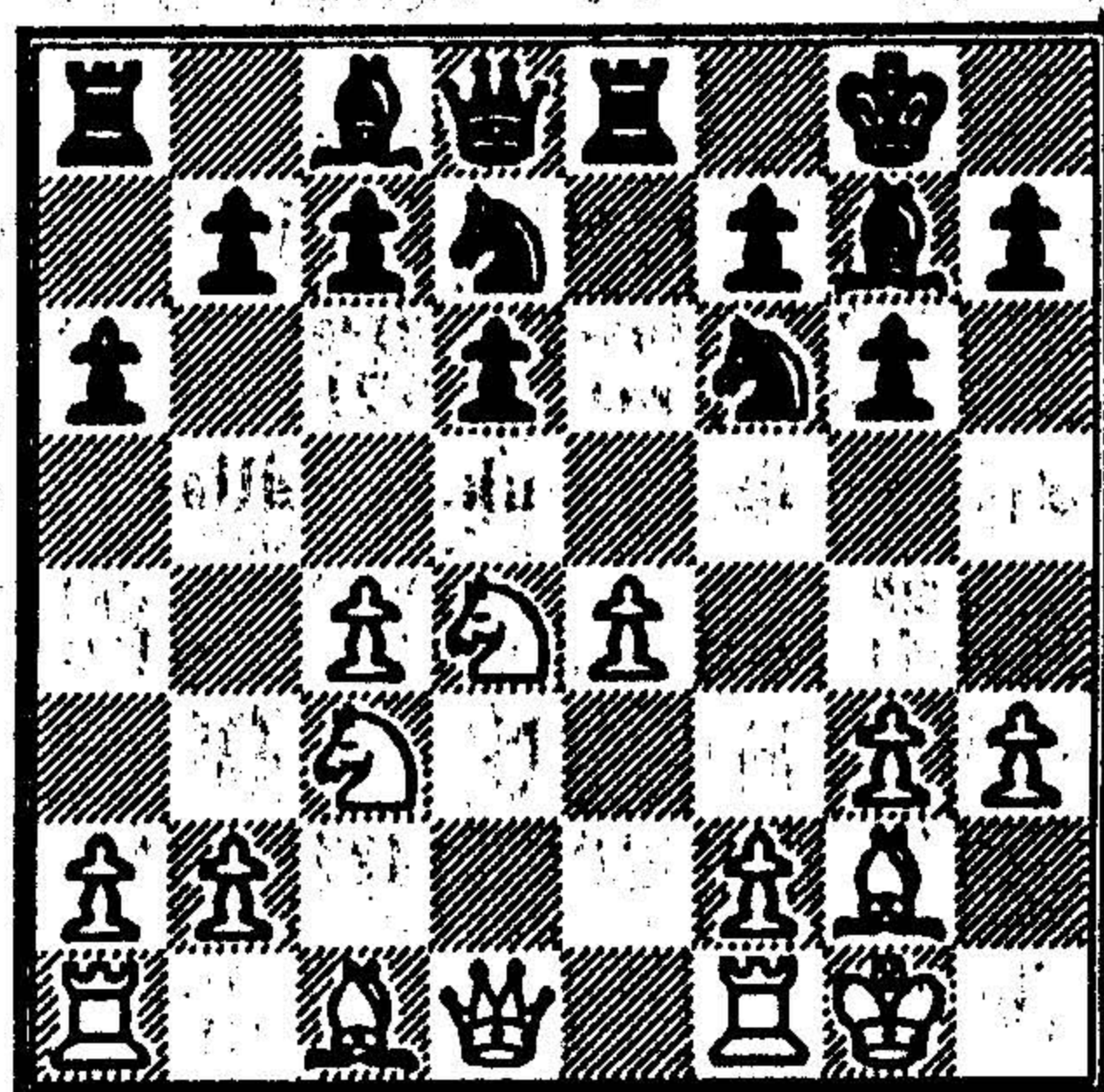
The classic Fianchetto line is one of White's most solid choices. Here we look at a Black attempt to introduce the sharpest possible imbalance. The idea of quick action on the queenside with ...c5 and ...b5 is not new. GMs Bronstein and Knaak played it in the '70s, but it wasn't accepted by many. Some twenty years later this idea has been re-investigated in a slightly different form.

In the initial games of this line, Black, after taking ...exd4, quickly played ...Ne5 and then by ...c5 and ...b5 exerted queenside pressure. Modern Blacks don't hurry with ...Ne5, they play ...Re8 first and combine action on the queenside with pressure on White's e-pawn. Black wants to inject dynamics early on and, consequently, must make positional concessions. The main drawbacks of Black's concept are the weaknesses along the d-line after ...c5. Black has to be ready to sacrifice his d6-pawn in many lines.

Although at first sight Black's whole concept might look unsound, the results achieved in practice have been quite satisfactory. The line is still being investigated and can be very effective against an unprepared opponent.

The characteristic moves are:

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 O-O 5.O-O d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e4 exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.h3 a6

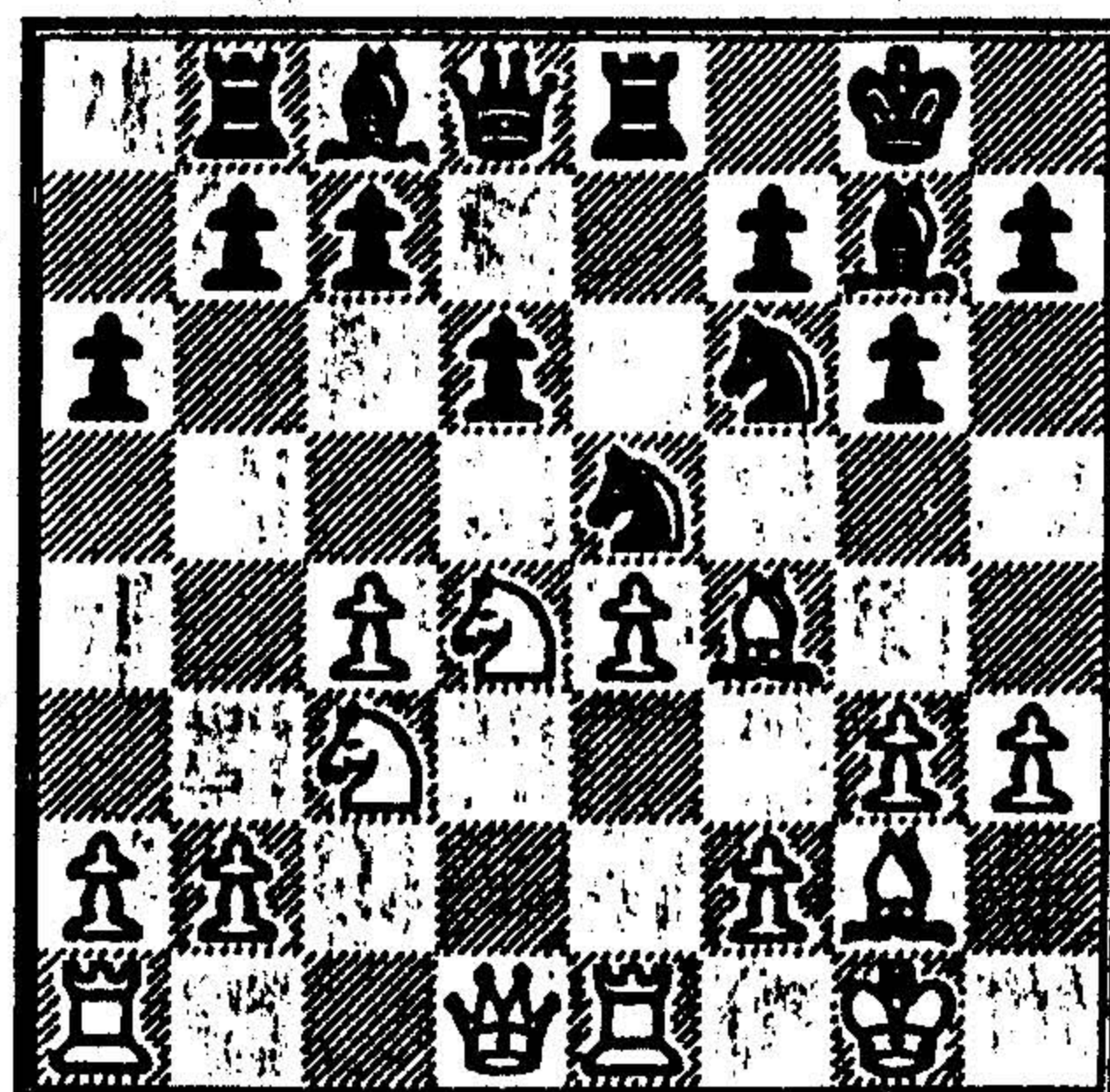


White has several continuations at his disposal and at this stage of the line's evolution it is difficult to determine the best one. That six different continuations are seen almost equally often in practice suggests that White hasn't yet found a clear way leading to an advantage. White can choose among: 11.Re1; 11.Be3; 11.Nb3; 11.Nde2; 11.Bg5; 11.Rb1.

## I. 11.Re1 Rb8

An almost unavoidable move in the line. Black removes the Rook from the diagonal h1-a8 and supports ...b7-b5. Here White is again at the crossroads:

### A. 12.Bf4 Ne5



The idea of 12.Bf4 is to force 12...Ne5 and slow down Black's action on the queenside, but 12.Bf4 doesn't lead to an advantage, which can be seen from the following examples.

1. 13.Bf1 Bd7 14.Rc1 h6 15.Rc2 Qc8 16.Kh2 g5 17.Be3 g4 18.f4 gxf3 19.Nxf3 Ng6, unclear, Ervin-Benjamin, Santa Monica, 1985.

2. 13.b3 h6 14.Be3 c5 15.Nde2 b5 16.f4 Ned7 17.Qxd6 b4 18.e5 bxc3 19.Nxc3, unclear, D'Amore-Gallagher, Biel 1990.

3. 13.Qe2 c5 14.Nf3 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Nh5 16.Bd2 Be6 (16...b5? 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Nd5 Bb7 19.g4 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Nf6 21.Bg5) 17.Bf1 Nf6 18.Bf4 Nh5 19.Be3 Nf6 20.Qd1 Qb6 21.Qc2 Nd7 22.f4 f5, roughly equal, Levitt-Gallagher, Hastings 1990 (0-1, 40).

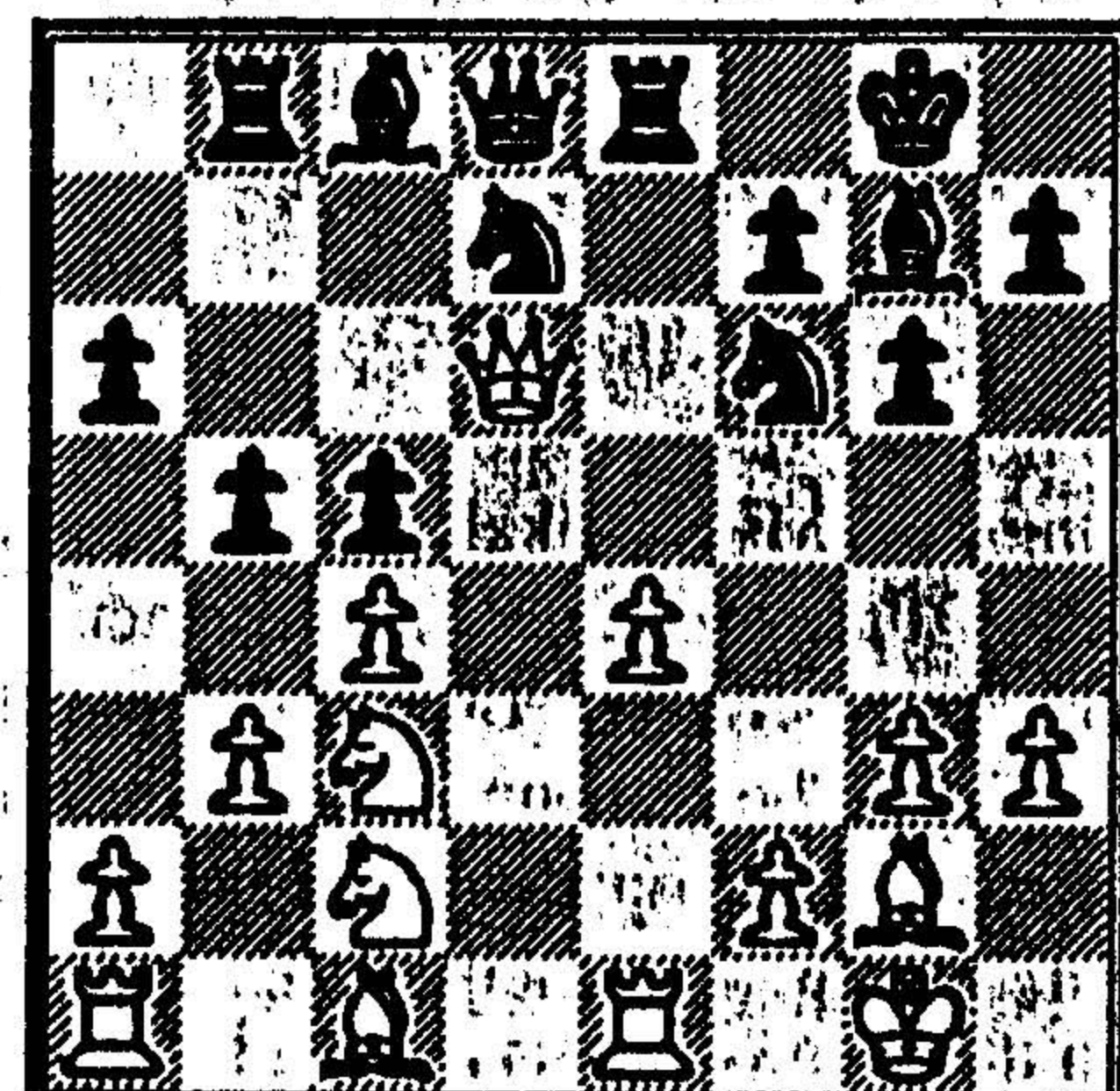
## B. 12.b3

White can play this after 11.Re1 (I) or 11.Be3 (II). At the moment it's difficult to say which variation is more favorable. What both of them have in common is that Black is forced to sacrifice the d6-pawn and look for compensation in the form of pressure on the c4-square.

12...c5 13.Nc2 b5

Less consistent is 13...Re6 14.a4 b6 15.Rb1 Bb7 16.f3 Qc7 17.Qd2 Bc6 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Ree8 20.Bb2, Suba-Fedorowicz, New York 1987.

14.Qxd6!





As in many other positions, it's best for White to take the d6-pawn without interpolating cxb5. Generally speaking, exchanging on b5 favors Black. In several examples after 14.cxb5 axb5 15.Qxd6 Black was more successful:

15...b4 (or 15...Rb6 16.Qd1 b4 17.Na4 Rbe6 18.Bb2 Qc7 19.Ne3 Bb7 20.f3 Nh5 with compensation, Whiteley-Gallagher, Royan 1989) 16.Na4 (16.Nd1 Rb6 17.Qd2 Rbe6 18.Bb2 Nxe4 19.Qc1 Bxb2 20.Qxb2 Bb7 and Black is better, Weigel-Chiong, Zurich 1990) 16...Bb7 17.Bg5 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Nxe4 19.Bxd8 Nxd6 20.Bc7, Pahlz-Watson, Mondorf 1991.

14...Bb7

Perhaps a better option is 14...b4!? 15.Na4 Bb7. C. Hansen-Gelfand, Munich 1992, continued 15.Qd1 Ne5 (15...b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Bxa1 18.Nxa1 with excellent compensation) 16.Bf4 (16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Nxb5 Nd3 with many threats) 16...Nh5 (16...Nd3 17.Bxb8 Nxe1 18.Qxd8 Rxd8 19.Rxe1 Rxb8 20.e5) 17.Bxe5! Bxe5 18.Nd5 bxc4 19.bxc4 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Qf6 21.Rb1 Rxb1 22.Qxb1 Rb8 23.Qd1 Rb2 24.Rf1! c4 25.Ne3 Bd4 26.e5! Qb6 27.Qf3 c3 28.d6 c2 29.Kh2 Bxe5 30.Nc4 Qb5 31.Nxe5 Qxe5 32.Qa8 + Kg7 33.d7 c1 = Q 34.Rxc1 Rxf2 35.d8 = Q Qxg3 + 36.Kh1 Qf4 37.Qf8 + Kf6 38.Qad8 + 1-0.

The reputation of Hansen's opponent should make this game attract the attention of White players. To correctly evaluate the position after 12.b3 c5 13.Nc2 b5 14.Qxd6 we need a practical test of 14...b4!? 15.Na4 Bb7.

### C. 12.Be3

Often White plays 11.Be3 without Re1 first (II).

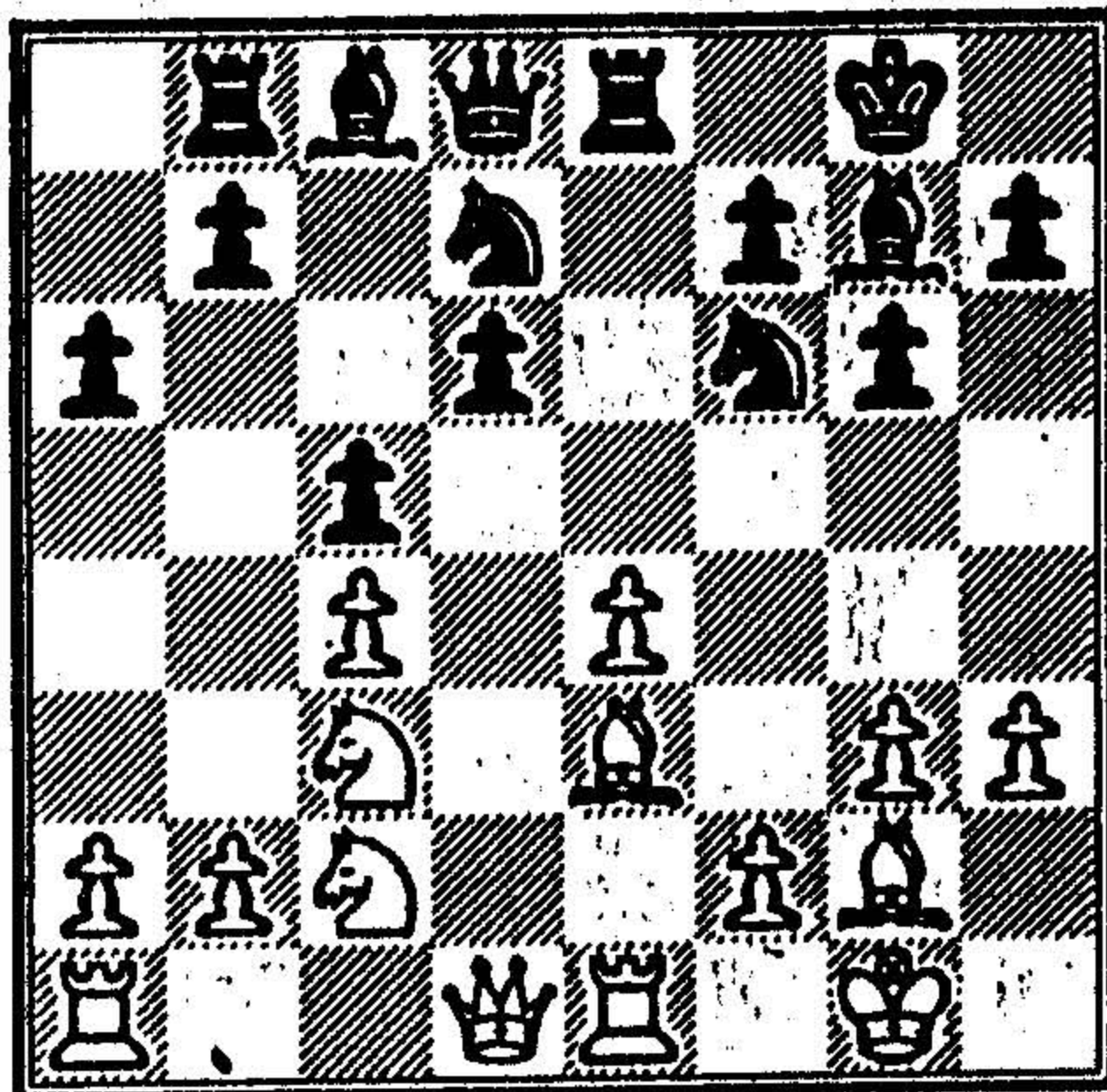
12...c5

Also possible is 12...Ne5 13.b3 c5 14.Nde2?! b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Rc1 b4 17.Na4 Ba6, better for Black, Krahenbuhl-Landenbergue, Luterne 1989.

13.Nc2

ECO says this is the starting position of the main line of the whole system. According to GMs Smejkal and Stohl, it's wiser for Black to refrain from the active 13...b5 and choose the more solid 13...Ne5. Although one should respect the analysis and opinions of these two experts on the Fianchetto KID, all the possibilities after 13...b5 haven't been ex-

hausted yet and it's too early to make a definite appraisal.



1. 13...b5 14.Qxd6

Again it's weaker to take on b5 first: 14.cxb5?! axb5 15.Qxd6 (15.b4 Ng4 16.hxg4 Bxc3 17.Qxd6 cxb4 18.Bd4 Re6 19.Qf4 Bxe1 20.Rxe1 Qe7 21.Ne3 Bb7, better for Black, Bukal-Gallagher, Geneva 1989) 15...b4 16.Na4 Bf8 17.Qd2 Bb7 18.Bg5 Qa5 19.b3 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Rxe4 21.Bxf6 Nxf6 22.Bxe4 Nxe4 23.Qf4 Qa8 better for Black, Shirazi-Benjamin, Estes Park 1985, 0-1 in 35.

14...bxc4

14...b4 15.Na4 Bf8 (15...Nxe4!? 16.Bxe4! Rxe4 17.Rad1! Qf8 18.Bf4 is better for White, Smejkal/Stohl) 16.Qd3 Qa5 17.b3 Bb7 18.Bg5, Bg7 19.Rad1 Rbd8 20.Qf1 Qc7 21.Ne3 was good for White in U. Schulze-Ilic, Bern 1989.

15.Na3

15.Rab1!?

15...Rxb2 16.Nxc4 Rc2

16...Rb4 17.Qd3.

17.Qd3

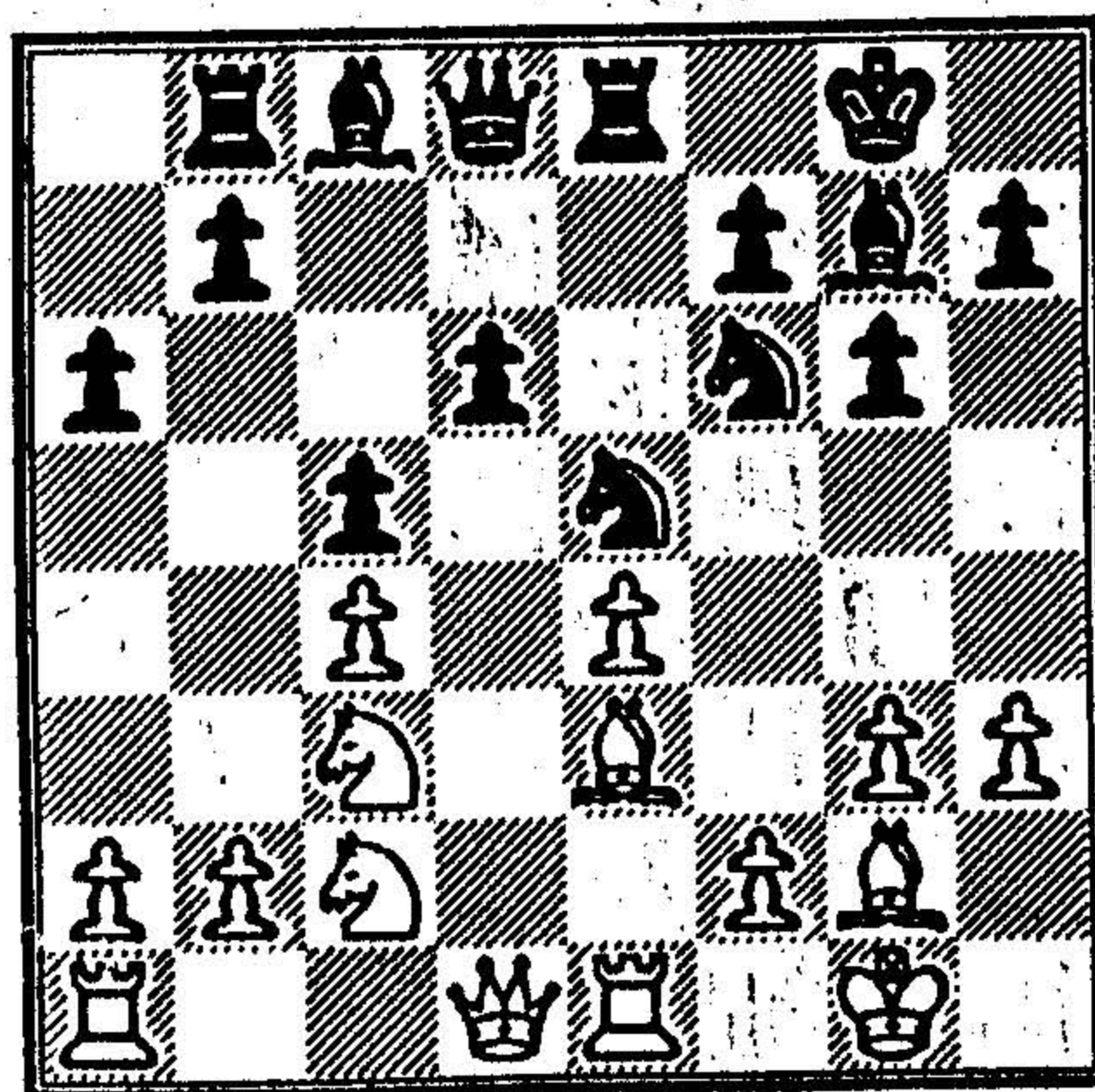
17.Bd2? Ne5.

17...Rxc3 18.Qxc3 Nd5

18...Nxe4?! 19.Qc1 Bxa1 20.Qxa1.

19.Qb3 Nxe3 20.Qxe3 Bxa1 21.Rxa1 leaves White on top according to Smejkal and Stohl, ECO 68/9.

2. 13...Ne5



a. 14.b3 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.f4 Ned7! 17.Qxd6 b4 18.e5?! Rb6 19.Qd1 bxc2 20.exf6 Bxf6 and Black had the upper hand in Miralles-Gallagher, Bern 1991.

b. 14.Qe2 Be6 (14...b5!?) 15.b3 b5 16.cxb5 Qa5 17.Nd5! Bxd5! 18.exd5 axb5 19.b4! is to White's advantage, Smejkal/Stohl.

### D. 12.f4

The most direct and least investigated continuation. 12...c5 13.Nc2 Nb6 14.Qd3 Bd7 15.b3 Nc8 16.a4 b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.cxb5 Be6 19.Ra3 Nb6 20.Ne3 was better for White in Gomez Esteban-Bellon Lopez, Lleida 1991 (1-0, 48).

E. 12.Rb1 - transposes to VI.

### II. Be3

This variation is characterized by two things. First, White either doesn't play Re1 at all or postpones it, and second after ...c5 White almost always moves the Knight to e2. That the e4-pawn remains without support helps Black realize his ambitious ideas on the queenside. After the unavoidable 11...Rb8, White here, as in I, has tried different continuations. Best is Re1, transposing into I. C.

11...Rb8

A. 12.a4

White chooses this radical solution when he wants to avoid the sharp variations that arise if Black is allowed to play ...b5. Black has a choice, either to try to take advantage of the weakened b4 square, or to be consistently dynamic and play 12...Ne5.

1. 12...Nc5 (or 12...a5! 13.Qe2 c4 14.Rad1 Qc7, unclear) 13.Qc2 a4 14.Rad1 Qe7 15.Rfe1 c6 16.f4 (16.Kh2 Nfd7 17.f4 b5 18.Bf2 Nf8 19.Nf3 was better for White in Ravi-Chong-Ghee Kuala Lumpur 1992) 16...Nfd7 17.Bf2 Nf8 18.Re2 Bd7 19.Nb3 Nxb3 20.Qxb3 Be4 21.Nd5 led to a White plus in Cvitan-Gallagher, Lenk 1989 (0-1, 40).

2. 12...Ne5 13.b3 Bd7 14.Ra2 (14.Re c5 15.Nde2 Bc6 16.Qc2 b5 17.cxb5 axb5 18.axb5 Bxb5 19.Nxb5 Rxb5 20.f4 draw Adorjan-Groszpeter, Hungary 1991) 14...Qc8 15.Kh2 h5! 16.Rd2 h4 17.gxh (17.g4! c5 18.Nde2 Nfxg4+ with an attack) 17...c5 18.Nde2 Bxh3! 19.Bxh Nf3 + 20.Kg3 Nh5 + 21.Kg2 Nxh4 + draw

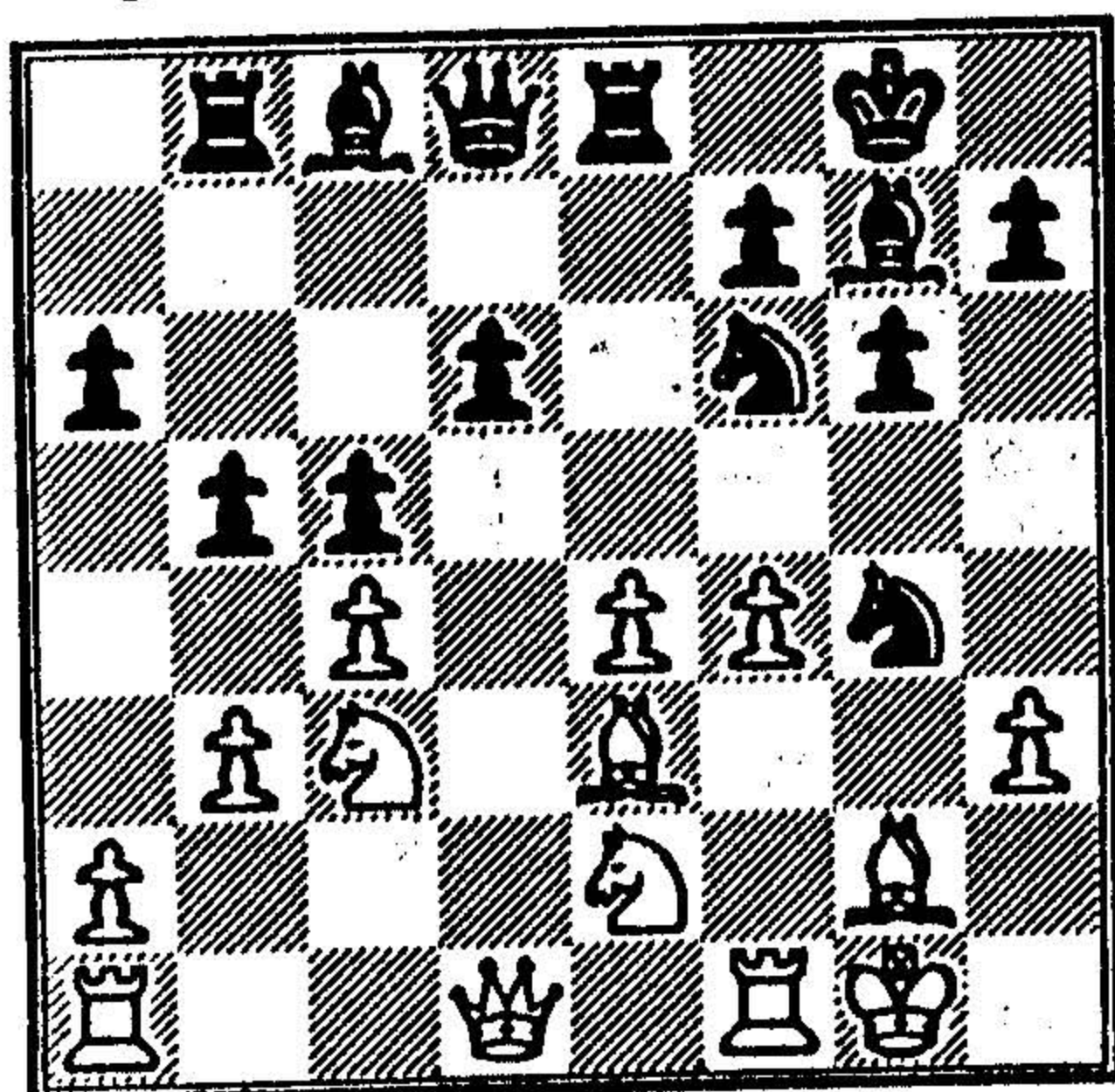


Kir. Georgiev-Knaak, Dortmund 1991.

### B. 12.g4

?!-Dautov. An overly committal move that gives Black additional possibilities for tactical play.

12...Ne5 13.b3 c5 14.Nde2 b5 15.f4 Nexg4!



15...Ned7? 16.g5 Nh5 17.Qxd6 b4 18.Nd5 Bxa1 19.Rxa1 Re6 20.Qc7 is better for White according to Dautov.

16.hxg4 Nxg4 17.Bf2 bxc4!

Dubious is 17...f5?! 18.exf5 b4 19.Bd5+ Kh8 20.Ne4 Bxf5 21.Ng5 Nh6 22.Ng3 [+], Stangl-Vasquez, Tunja 1989.

18.bxc4 Be6 19.Qd3 Rb4 20.Rad1

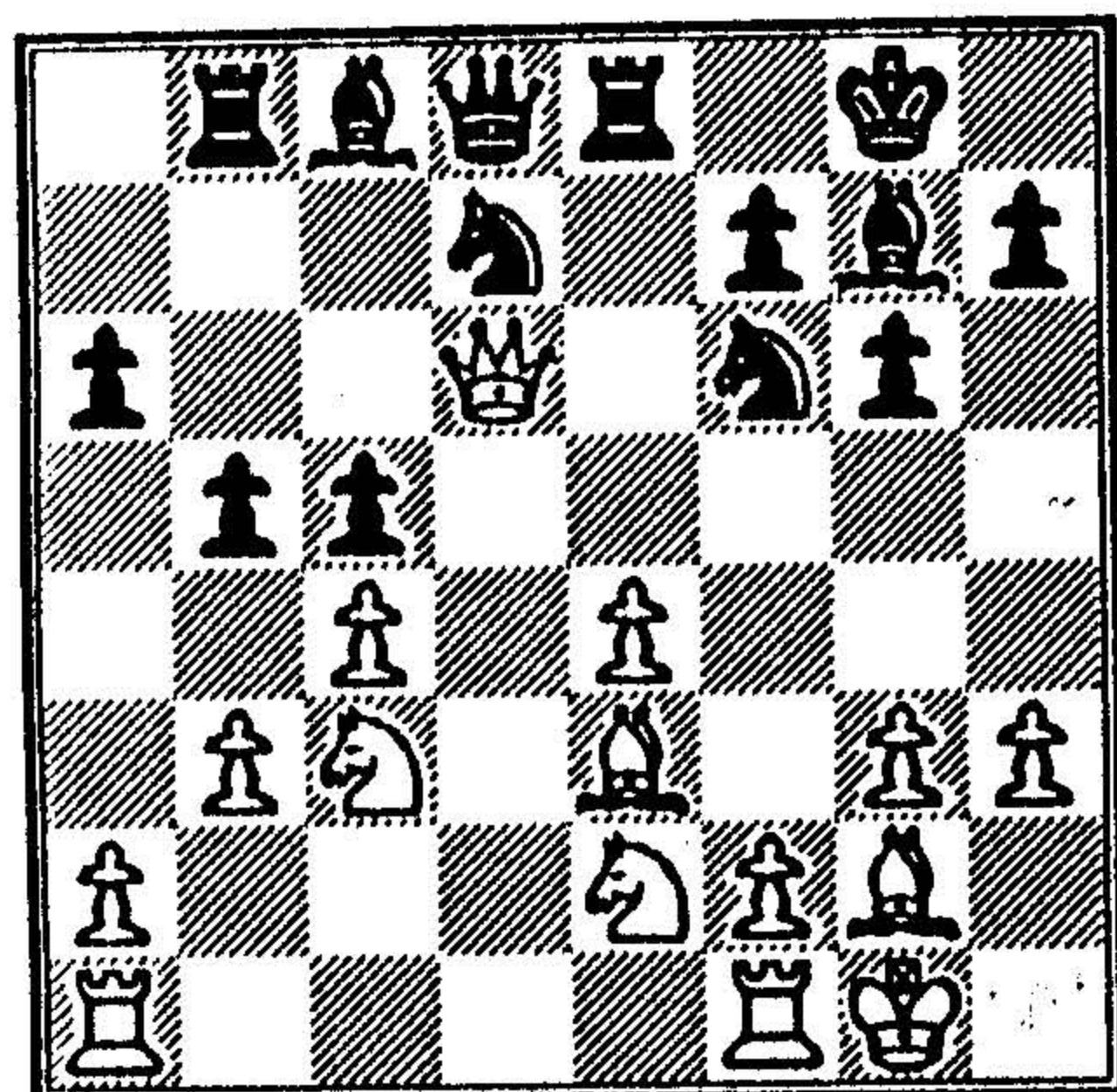
And now instead of 20...Rxc4? 21.e5! [Dautov-Knaak, Bad Lauterberg 1991 (1-0, 39)], Black could have equalized with 20...Bxc4.

### C. 12.b3

12...c5 13.Nde2

This variation and I. A. in which White also plays b3, differ considerably. Here White has played Be3 instead of Re1 and moves the Knight to the e2-square, not to c2, which makes the variation completely independent.

13...b5 14.Qxd6



14.cxb5 axb5 15.a4 (15.Qxd6 b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Bxa1 18.Rxa1 Bb7 is only

slightly better for Black according to Benjamin) 15...b4 16.Nb5 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Rxe4 18.Nxd6 Qe7 19.Rc1? (19.Nxc8) 19...Ba6 20.Nxe4 Qxe4 21.Bf4 Ne5 22.Bxe5 Bxe5 23.Qd2 Qf3 with a big plus, Gutman-Benjamin, Dortmund 1985 (0-1, 33).

14...b4 15.Na4

15.c5 Nh5 16.f4 bxc3 17.g4 Bf8 18.Qd3 Ng7 leads to a Black pull—Grunfeld.

15...Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Bxa1!

Better than 16...Rxe4?! 17.Rad1 Qe8 18.Nf4 Bf8 draw, Zarkovic-Ilic, Cetinje 1990, though White missed 18.Nxc5!

17.Rxa1 Rxe4 18.Nxc5 Rb6!

With a very complex game.

### D. 12.Rc1

This continuation doesn't give any advantage to White. By sacrificing a pawn, Black quickly achieves active play.

12...c5 13.Nde2 b5 14.cxb5 (14.Qxd6!) 14...axb5 15.Qxd6 [15.Qc2 b4 16.Nb1 Ba6 17.Rfd1 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxe2 19.Rxd6 Qc7 20.Rd2 Bb5 21.Bg2 Rbc8, Radulov-Gallagher, Biel 1989 (0-1, 35)] 15...b4 16.Na4 Bf8 17.Qd3 Qa5 18.b3 Ba6 19.Qc2 Rbc8 20.Nb2 Bxe2 21.Qxe2 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Rxe4 23.Nc4 Qa6 24.Rfe1 Ree8 25.Rcd1 Nf6 26.Nd6 Qxe2 27.Rxe2 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Ne4 draw, Szekely-Gallagher, Hastings 1990.

### E. 12.Qc2

The most critical variations for Black are when White takes the d6-pawn. Now this possibility doesn't exist and Black has no problems equalizing.

12...c5

Also possible is 12...Ne5 13.b3 c5 14.Nde2 b5 15.cxb5 axb5 16.f4 Ned7 17.e5 dxe5 18.fxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxc5 b4 20.Rad1 Bd7, Galliamova-Peng, Subotica 1991.

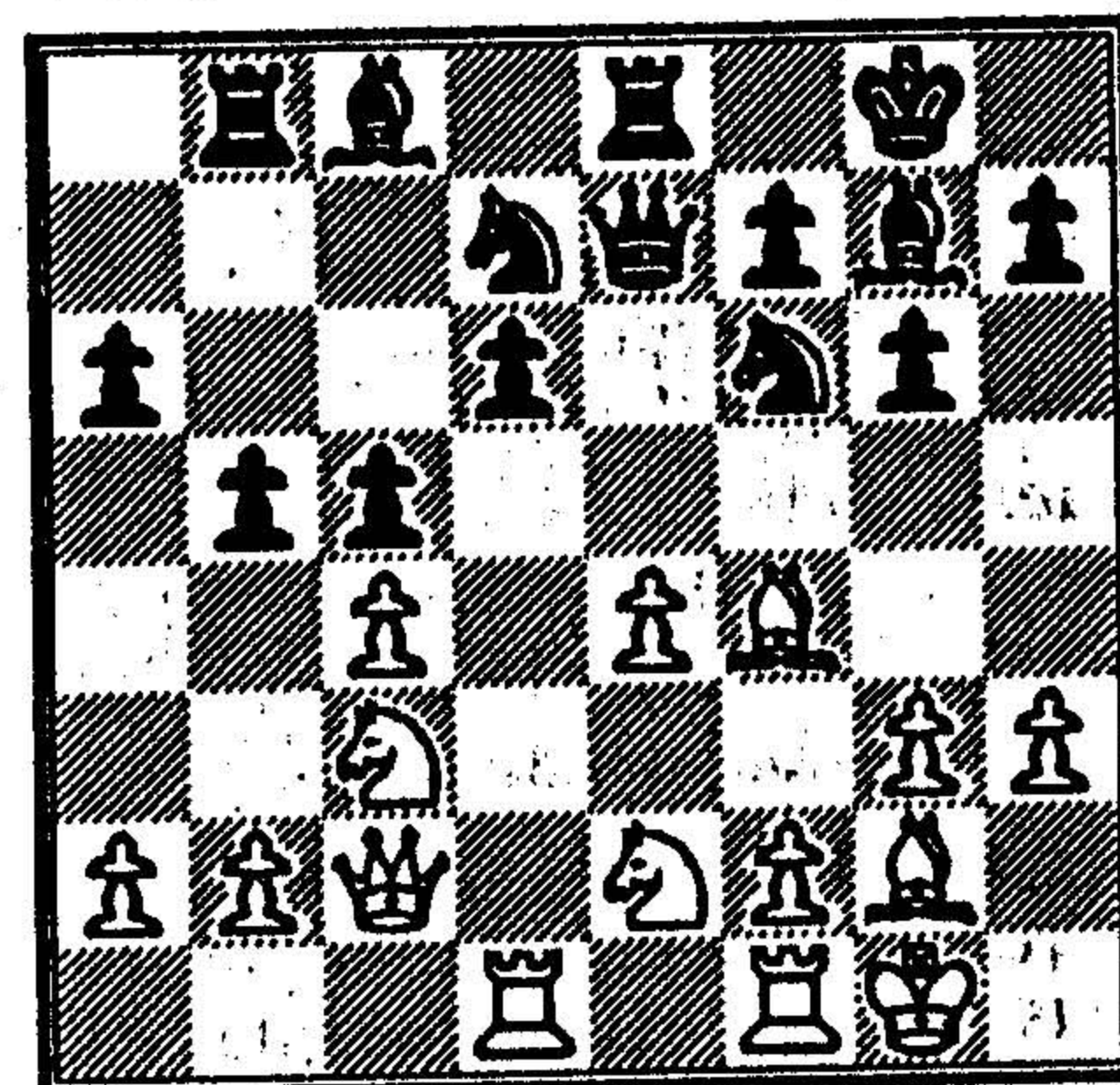
13.Nde2 b5 14.Rad1

14.cxb5 axb5 15.Rad1 b4 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Rxd5 Nf6 18.Rd2 Qe7 19.f3 Be6 20.b3 Rbc8 21.Nf4 d5 22.exd5 Bf5 23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.Qd1 Qd6 0-1, Castiglioni-Gallagher, Mendrisio 1989.

14...Qe7

14...b4 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.Rxd5 Qe7 17.Rfd1 Rb6 18.R5d2 Bb7 19.Nf4 Nf6 20.f3 g5 21.Nd3 Nd7 22.Nf2 f5 23.Re2 fxe4 24.Nxe4 Bxe4 25.fxe4 Be5 draw, Baginskaite-Domkute, Moscow 1990. Black could, of course, have played on.

15.Bf4



A better plan, Nf4-d5, was seen in Schroll-Van. Wely, Kecskemet 1991: 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Nf4 Bb7 17.Nxb5 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Nxe4 19.Nd5 Qe6 20.Nbc7 Qxb3 21.Nxe8 Rxe8 22.Rfe1 with a slight plus.

15...Ne5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.Bg5 Qf8 18.f4 Nc4 19.Qc1 Ba6

Black is better.

20.e5 dxe5 21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Bxf6 b4 23.Bxe5 Rxe5 24.Bd5 Rxd5 25.Rxd5 bxc3 26.Nxc3 Bd4+ 27.Rf2 Bb7 28.Rd7 Qe8 29.Rc7 Qe5 30.Rxf7 Qxg3+ 31.Kf1 Ba6+ 32.Ke1 Re8+ 0-1, Drasko-Gallagher, Aosta 1990.

### F. 12.Rb1

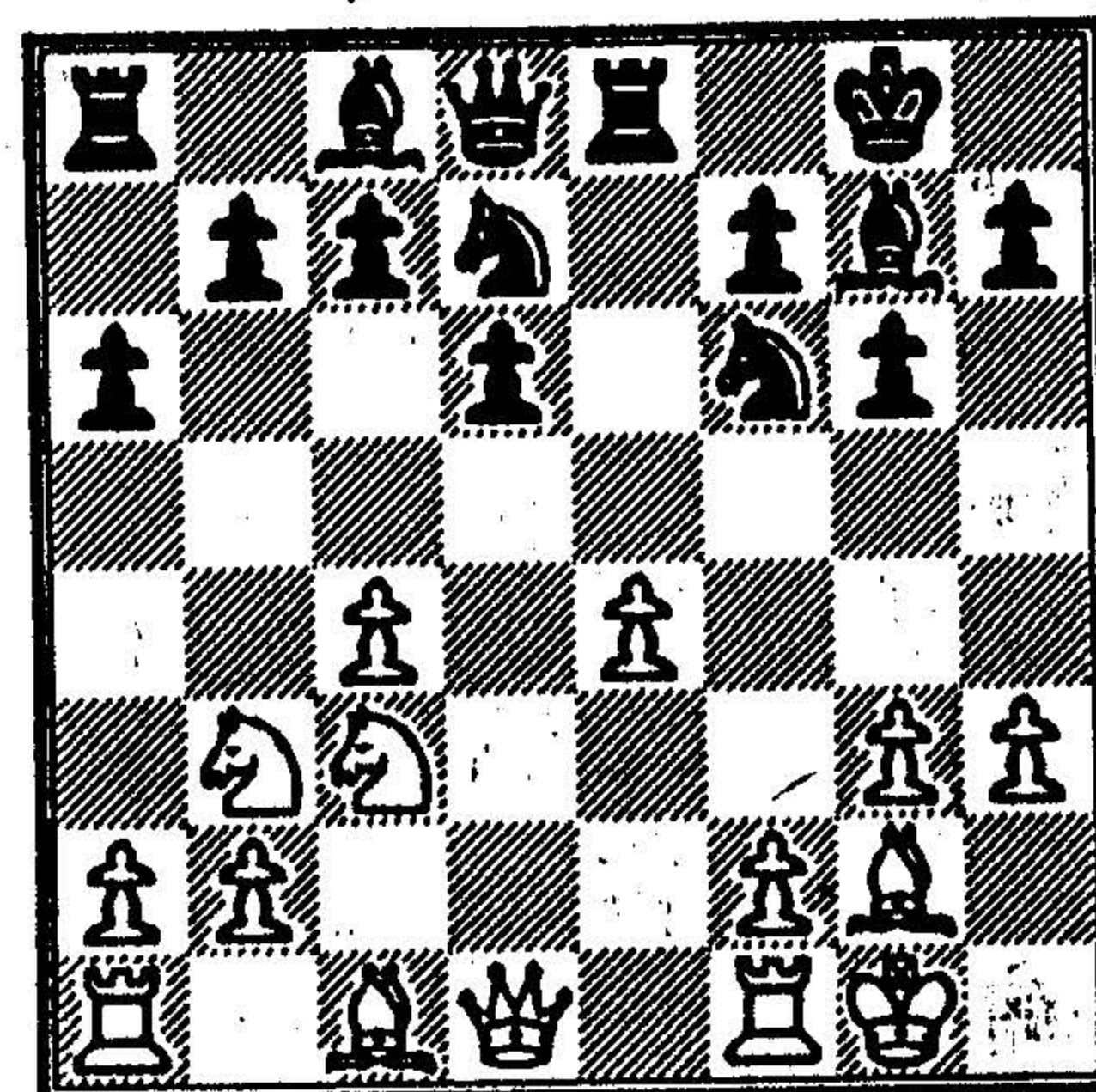
12...Ne5 13.b3 c5 14.Nde2 b5 15.f4 Ned7 16.cxb5

16.Qxd6! b4 17.e5 bxc3 18.Nxc3 Bf8 19.Qd2 Nh5 20.g4 Ng7 with compensation.

16...axb5 17.b4 Bb7 18.e5 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 cxb4 20.Rxb4 Qa5

And Black was on top in Grun-Glek, Germany 1991.

### III. 11.Nb3



This continuation was introduced by GM Predrag Nikolic. White reacts prophylactically and immediately moves his Knight away from the center, which



makes Black's basic plan with ...c5 less efficient. For Black, it's best to give up the routine 11...Rb8 and go on with either 11...a5, which transposes into a kind of a classic variation of the Fianchetto System, or to react with 11...Ne5, provoking the White pawn on the c4-square. In two tournament games in which 11...Ne5 was played Black was better.

#### A. 11...Rb8

12.Qc2! Ne5 (12...b5? 13.Na5! 13.c5 (13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.cxd5 c6, equal) 13...dxc5 14.Nxc5 (14.Rd1? Qe7 15.f4? c4) 14...Qe7? (14...Qd6! 15.Nb3 Qd3 16.Qxd3 Nxd3 17.Rd1 Nxc1 18.Raxc1 with a plus) 15.Be3! with a big advantage, P. Nikolic-Gelfand, Belgrade 1991.

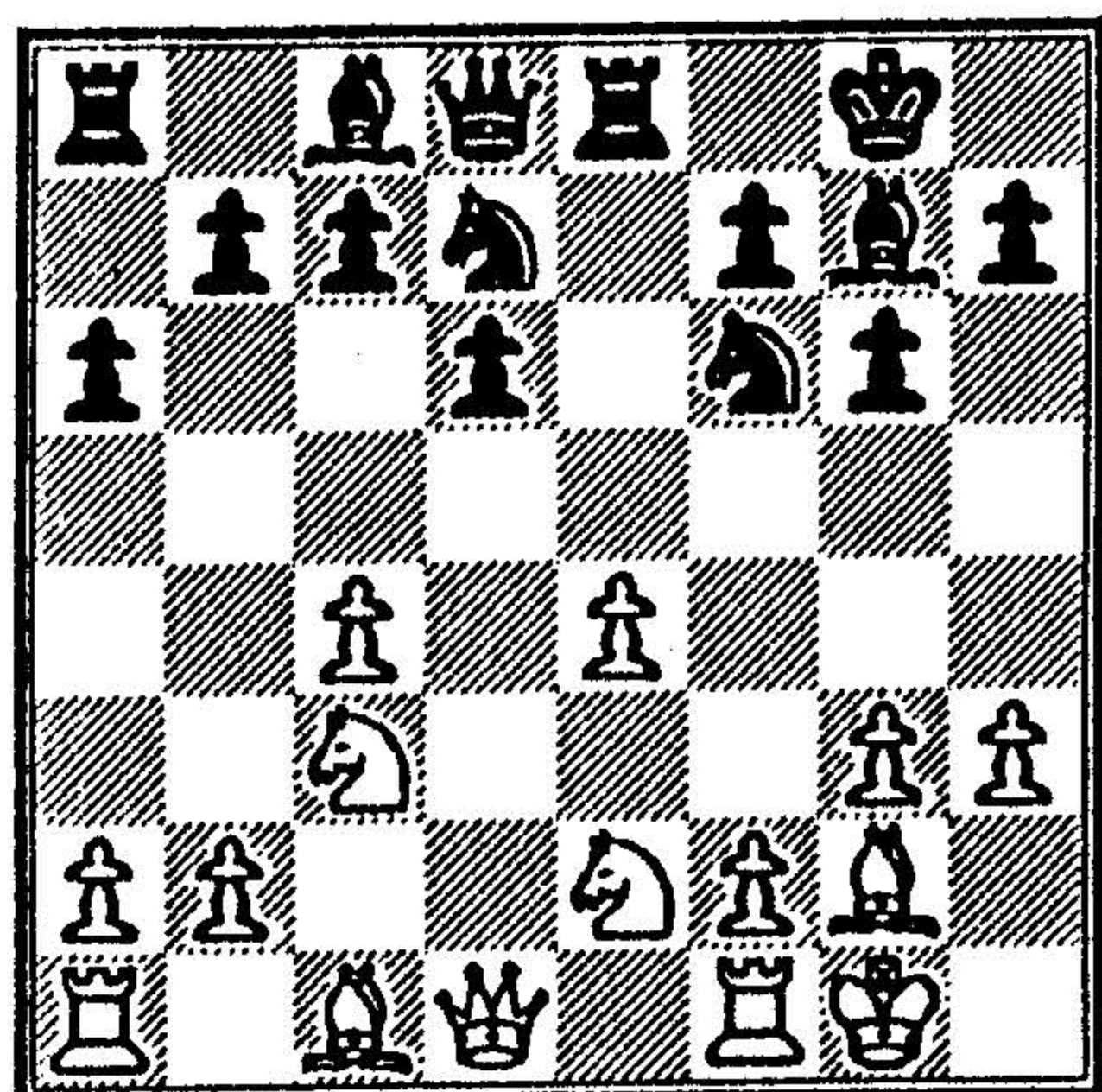
#### B. 11...a5!?

12.Be3 a4 13.Nd4 Nc5 14.Qc2 h5?! (14...c6) 15.Rad1 Bd7 16.Rfe1 Nh7?! 17.f4 Nf6 18.Bf2 Qc8 19.Kh2 Ne6 20.Nf3! with a big advantage, A. Petrosian-Van Wely, Manila (ol) 1992.

#### C. 11...Ne5

12.c5 (12.Qe2 Be6 13.Nd2 Nfd7 14.f4 Nc6 15.Qd1 Nc5 16.Nd5 f5! 17.exf5 Bxf5 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.Qxb3 Na5 20.Qa4 b6, Zs. Polgar-Chiburidanidze, Shanghai ct 1992) 12...dxc5 13.f4 Nd3 14.e5 Nh5 15.Rf3 c4 16.Na5 c5 17.Nxc4 Qd4+ 18.Kh2 Nxc1 19.Nd6 Qxd1 20.Nxd1 Rxe5 21.fxe5 Ne2 22.Re3 Nc3 23.Nc3 Nf5 24.Ree1 Nf4 25.Rad1 Nxc2 26.Kxg2 Nxd6 27.exd6 Bd7 28.Kg3 Rd8 29.Ne4 Be5+ 30.Kf2 Bd4+ 31.Kg3 Bc6 32.b3 f5 33.Ng5 Rxd6 34.Nf3 f4+ 35.Kg2 0-1, Yrjola-P. Cramling, Osterson 1992.

### IV. 11.Nde2



Not satisfied with 11.Nb3, GM Nikolic tried 11.Nde2 in two games at Wijk aan Zee in 1992. However, this continuation can hardly give White the advantage; see B.

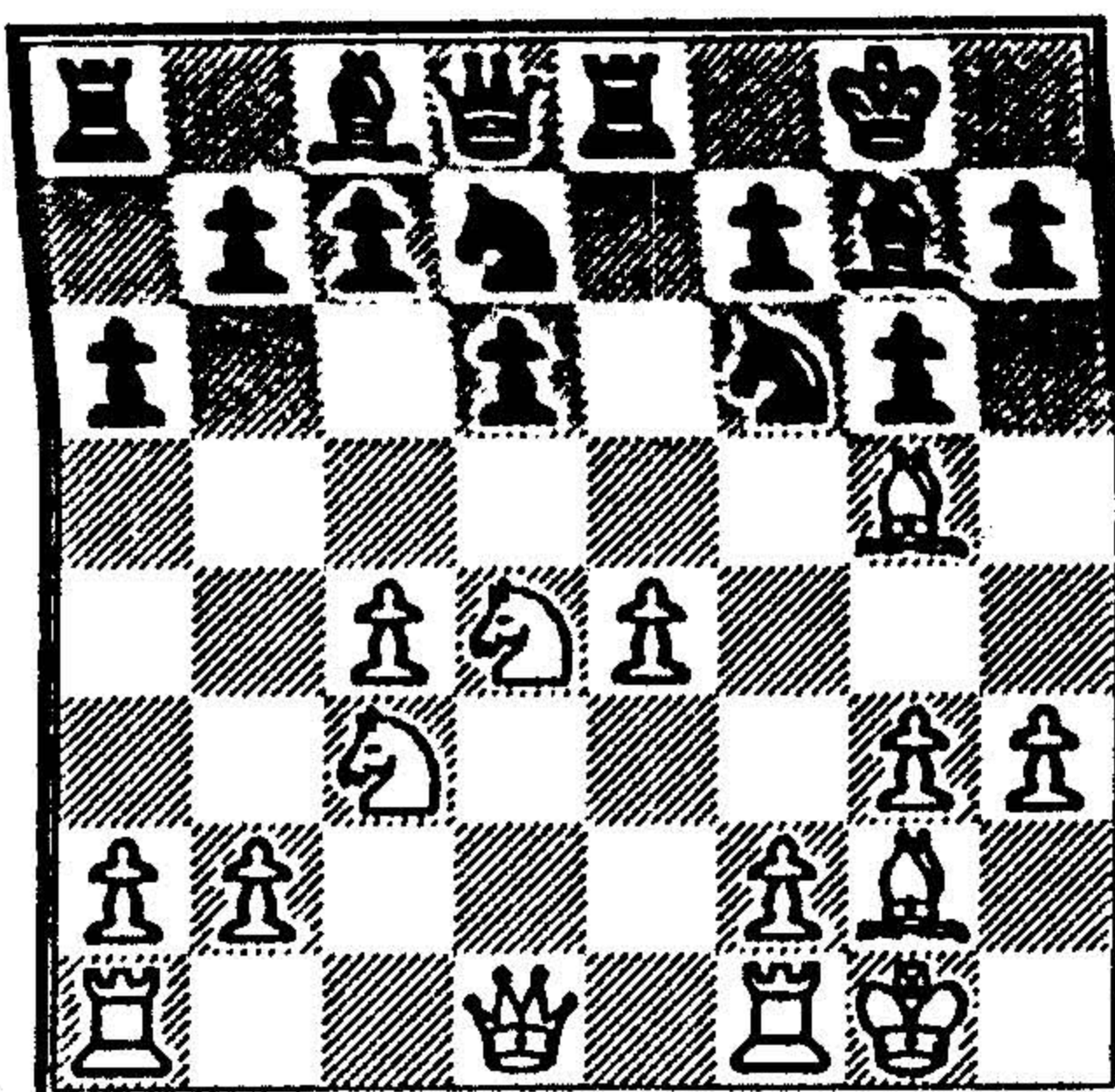
#### A. 11...Rb8

12.Qc2 Ne5 (12...b5? 13.cxb5 axb5 14.Nd4, winning) 13.b3 b5 14.cxb5 (14.g4? Nc6 15.c5 Nb4, winning) 14...axb5 15.Bg5 c6 16.Rad1 b4 17.Na4 Qc7 18.Rfe1 h6?! (18...c5! 19.Qd2 Bb7 unclear, Dautov) 19.Bf4 c5 20.Qd2 Bb7 21.Qxd6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Nxe4 23.Rb6! Nd7? (23...Bc6) 24.Rb5 Bc6 25.Rxb8 Nxb8 26.Bxb8 Bxa4 27.bxa4, winning, P. Nikolic-Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1992 (draw, 57).

#### B. 11...Nb6

12.b3 Nxe4 13.Nxe4 (13.Bxe4) 13...Rxe4 14.Bxe4 Bxa1 15.Bg2 Bf6 16.Nf4 Rb8 17.Be3 Bd7 18.Bxb6 cxb6 19.Qxd6 Bc6 20.Qxd8 Rxd8 21.Nd5 draw, P. Nikolic-Gelfand, Wijk aan Zee 1992.

### V. 11.Bg5



Provoking Black to play ...h6 with the idea of gaining a developing tempo later by Qd2 or Qc1. For some time GM Lev Gutman's idea was considered Black's main problem in the whole line, until GM Rainier Knaak demonstrated both in analysis and in practice how Black should play.

11...h6 12.Be3 Rb8

#### A. 13.a4!?

13...Ne5 14.b3 Bd7 15.Ra2 Qc8 (15...c5 16.Nde2 b5!?) 16.Kh2 h5 17.f3! c6 18.Bc1 d5!, unclear, Skembris-Knaak, Athens 1992 (0-1, 42) — *Informant* 54/564.

#### B. 13.Qc1

13...Kh7 [13...c5! 14.Nde2 b5 15.cxb5 (15.Bxh6 bxc4, unclear) 15...axb5 16.Bxh6 b4 17.Na4 Nxe4, winning — Knaak] 14.Rd1 c5 15.Nde2 b5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.a4 b4 18.Nb5 Nxe4 19.Bxe4 Rxe4 20.Nxd6 Qe7 21.Nf4 Bb7 22.Nxb7 Rxb7 23.a5! with a pull, L. Gutman-Gallagher, Biel 1989.

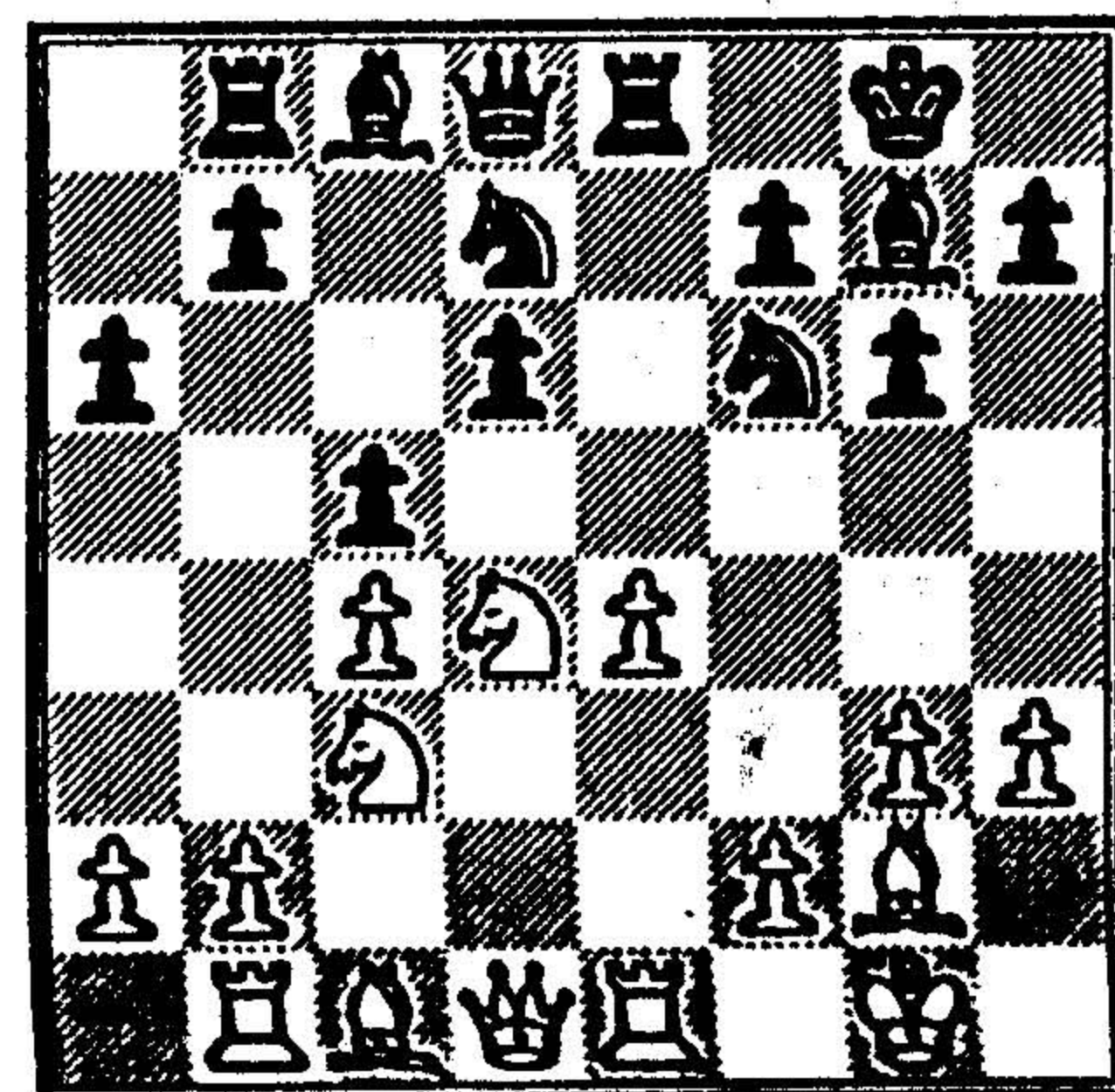
#### C. 13.Qd2

13...e5 14.Nde2 Ne5 15.b3 Bxh3! (15...Kh7 16.f4) 16.Bxh6! (16.f4? Bxg2

17.fxe5 Nxe4, winning — Knaak) 16...Qd7 17.f3 (17.Bg5? Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Nf3!! with a big plus) 17...b5 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Nf4 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Rh8 22.Rh1 b4 is equal, L. Gutman-Knaak, Munster 1991 (draw, 37).

### VI. 11.Rb1

11...Rb8 12.Re1 c5



One of the basic positions of the variation, which can also be reached by 11.Re1 Rb8 12.Rb1 c5. Apart from the sharpest continuation 12...c5, Black has other alternatives as well.

12...Ne5 13.b3 Bd7 (13...c5! 14.Nc2 b5, unclear) 14.f4 (14.a4 c5 15.Nc2 Qc7 16.Bg5 Bc6 17.Qd2 b5 18.cxb5 axb5 19.f4 was good for White in Prudnikova-Paulauskiene, Debrecen 1992) 14...Nc6 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Bb2 Re7 17.Nd5 was good for White in Welin-Benjamin, Reykjavik 1986.

12...Nc5 13.a4? a5! 14.Ndb5 (14.b3 Nfd7, unclear) 14...Bf8 (14...Bd7! with the idea ...Bc6) 15.e5?! (15.Bg5 h6 16.Bf4, unclear) 15...dxe5 16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.Bg5 Kg7 18.Nxc7 Bf5, unclear, Dzhandzhigava-Van Wely, Manila (ol) 1992.

12...h6 (with the idea ...Nc5-e6-g5) 13.Be3 (13.b3 Nc5 14.f3 Bd7 15.Be3 b5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.b4 Ne6 18.Qd2 Nxd4 19.Bxd4 Be6 20.Nd5 c5! Wojtkiewicz-Van Wely, Philadelphia 1992) 13...c5 (13...Ne5 14.b3 c5 15.Nf3) 14.Nf3! (14.Nde2 Ne5 15.b3 b5 16.f4 Ncd7 17.Qxd6 b4) 14...b5 15.Qxd6 b4 16.Nd5 Nxe4 17.Qc7 Bb7 18.Qxd8 Rbxid8 19.Nc7 Rf8?! (19...Re7! 20.Rbd1 Kf8!) 20.Nd2 Nxd2 21.Bxd2 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Ne5 23.Be3 gave White the upper hand in P. Nikolic-Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1993 (1-0, 41).

#### 13.Nf3

This decentralization of the Knight is stronger than 13.Nc2 b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15.b4 Qc7 16.Nc3 cxb4 17.Ned5 Qa5



18.Nxb4 Bb7 19.a3 Nc5 20.Nba2 Bc6  
21.Nb4 Bb7 22.Nba2 Bc6 draw, Rivas  
Pastor-Horvath, Debrecen 1992.

13...b5 14.Qxd6 b4 15.Nd5 Nxe4  
16.Rxe4! Rxe4 17.Bg5 f6??

A move that loses immediately. To  
evaluate the idea of 11.Rb1 and 13.Nf3,  
it's necessary to test the position after  
17...Qe8! (17...Qf8! 18.Be7 Qe8 19.Ng5  
Re2 20.Nc4 with many threats) 18.Nc7  
(18.Ne7+ Kh8 19.Rd1 f6 20.Nxc8 Rxc8  
21.Qxd7 fxe5 22.Nxe5 Re1+ 23.Kh2 Rxd1  
is better for Black) 18...Qf8 19.Qd3!?

18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Qd5+ Kg7  
20.Bxf6+ Qxf6 21.Qxe4 Bb7 22.Qe3 Rf8  
23.Ng5 Qf5 24.Qe7+ 1-0

**Conclusion:** The line with ...c5 and  
...b5 offers Black all he could want in  
terms of sharp and original play. Un-  
prepared White opponents are unlikely  
to find the best lines over the board and  
there is enough leeway in the crucial  
variations to keep Black afloat and firing  
in the Swiss Lottery. ■

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# Sharp Assaults Against the Dutch

by IM Nikolay Minev

As might be expected, most of the short cuts against the Dutch Defense occur in the relatively rare (but steadily growing!) category called "assaulting variations." 2.Bg5, 2.g4, 2.Nc3 and 2.e4. They provoke instant complications with lots of tactics and, of course, are fraught with risk, as in any other gambit opening or variation. The examples below are from the last five years and will give you an idea how these sharp assaults look in practice, along with some of the typical tactics involved.

Dutch A80

FM Adolf Herzog  
IM Gerhard Schroll

Austria 1994

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5

I call this variation "The Flying Dutch-Bishop."

2...Nf6 3.d5!?

An interesting idea, not mentioned in ECO.

3...c6?!

The alternative 3...e6 4.dxe6 dxe6 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.Nc3, followed by 7.O-O-O, is not attractive. Maybe 3...Ne4 deserves attention.

4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e3 Qb6 6.Nd2 Qxb2

An old story. White's advantage in development is good compensation for the poisoned pawn. However, Black's suspicious-looking position is still lost.

7.Bc4 b5 8.Bb3 c5 9.Rb1 Qa3?

Perhaps the decisive mistake. The Queen is needed for the defense of the King, hence 9...Qe5 was preferable, even if it gives additional tempi to White.

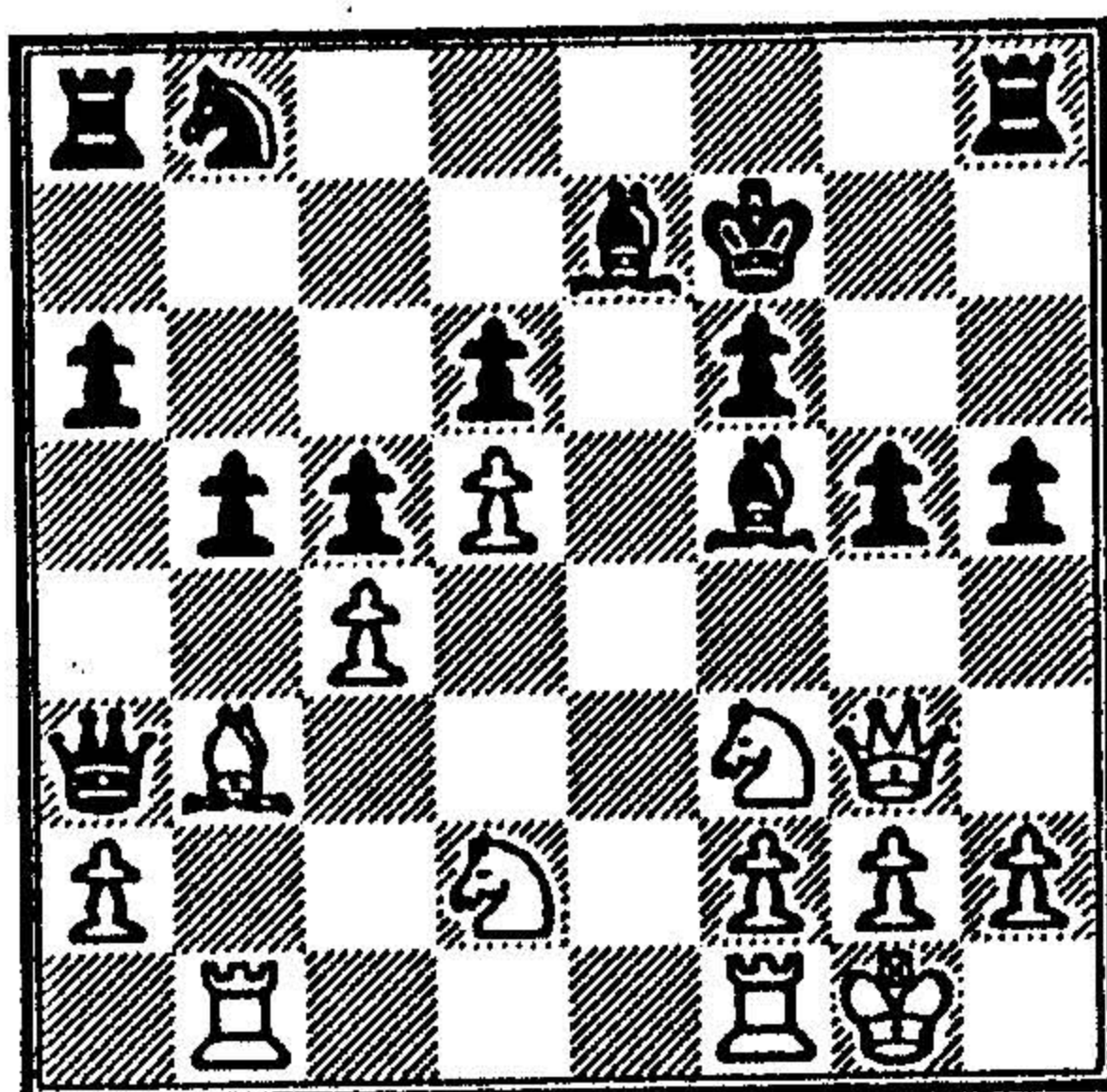
10.c4 a6 11.Qh5+ g6 12.Qh4 Kf7?!

In case of 12...Bg7, White's plan of 13.Qf4 O-O 14.h4 maintains the initiative.

13.Ngf3 d6 14.O-O h5 15.e4 Be7 16.Qg3! g5

Black's last chance was 16...Qa5, but after 17.Bc2!, White has a strong attacking position.

17.exf5 Bxf5



18.Bc2! Bxc2 19.Nxg5+ fxg5 20.Qxa3 Bxb1 1-0

After the obvious 21.Rxb1 Black is totally lost.

Dutch A80

IM Evgeny Solozhenkin  
Joose Norri

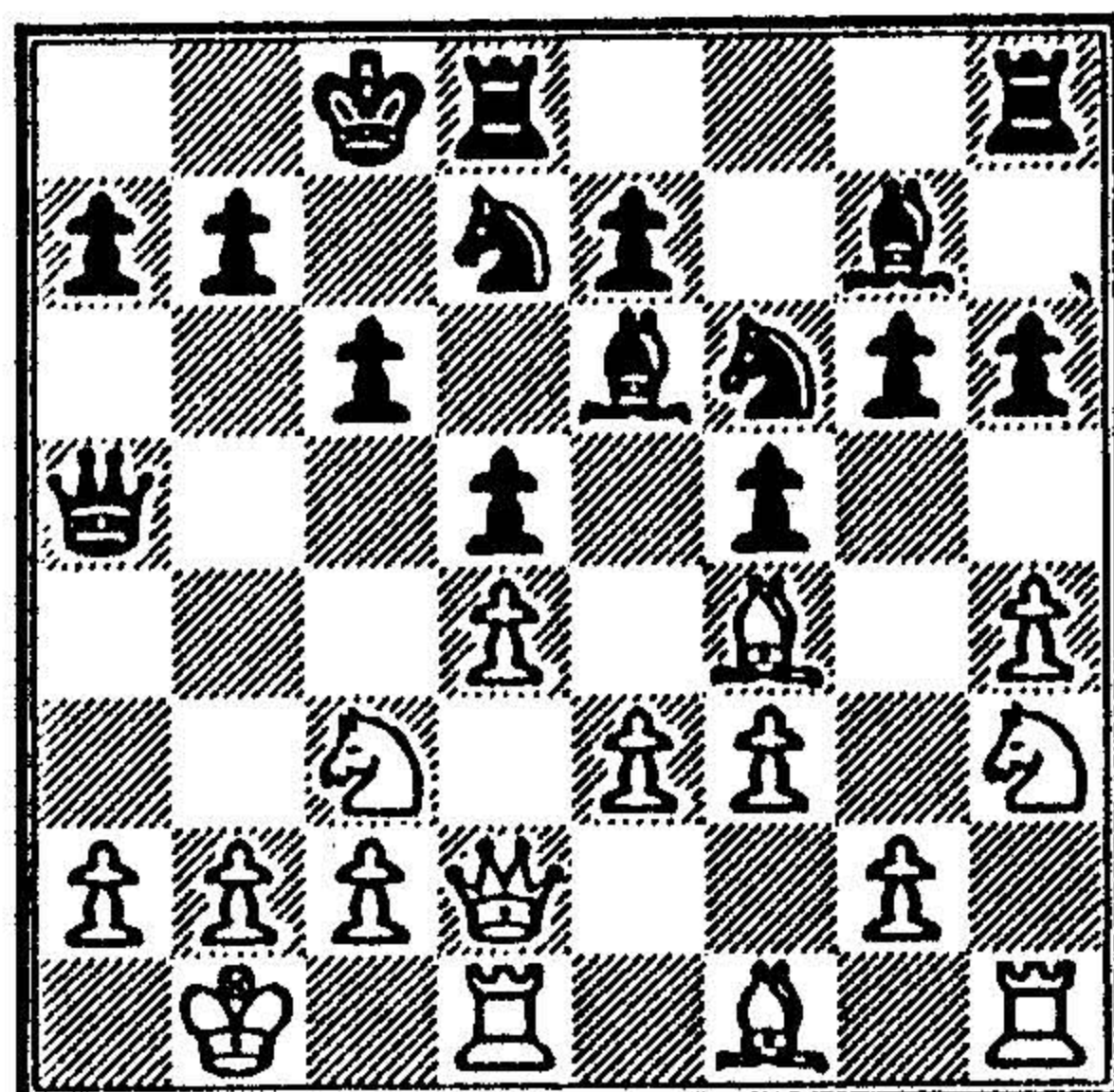
Finland 1993

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Qd2 Bg7 5.h4 Be6?!

New, but hardly an example to follow.

6.Nh3 h6 7.Bf4 c6 8.e3 Nd7 9.f3 Ngf6 10.O-O-O Qa5 11.Kb1 O-O-O?

Overlooking a surprising tactical trick, which was also feasible if 11...O-O was played. 11...Kf7 eliminates the immediate threat, but White clearly keeps the better chances, because the opening of the position by e3-e4 is unavoidable.



12.Nxd5! Qxd5

There is nothing else, because 12...Qxd2 13.Nxe7 is a typical mate.

13.c4

Black's Queen is trapped in the center, a relatively rare tactical opportunity.

13...Ne4 14.fxe4 1-0

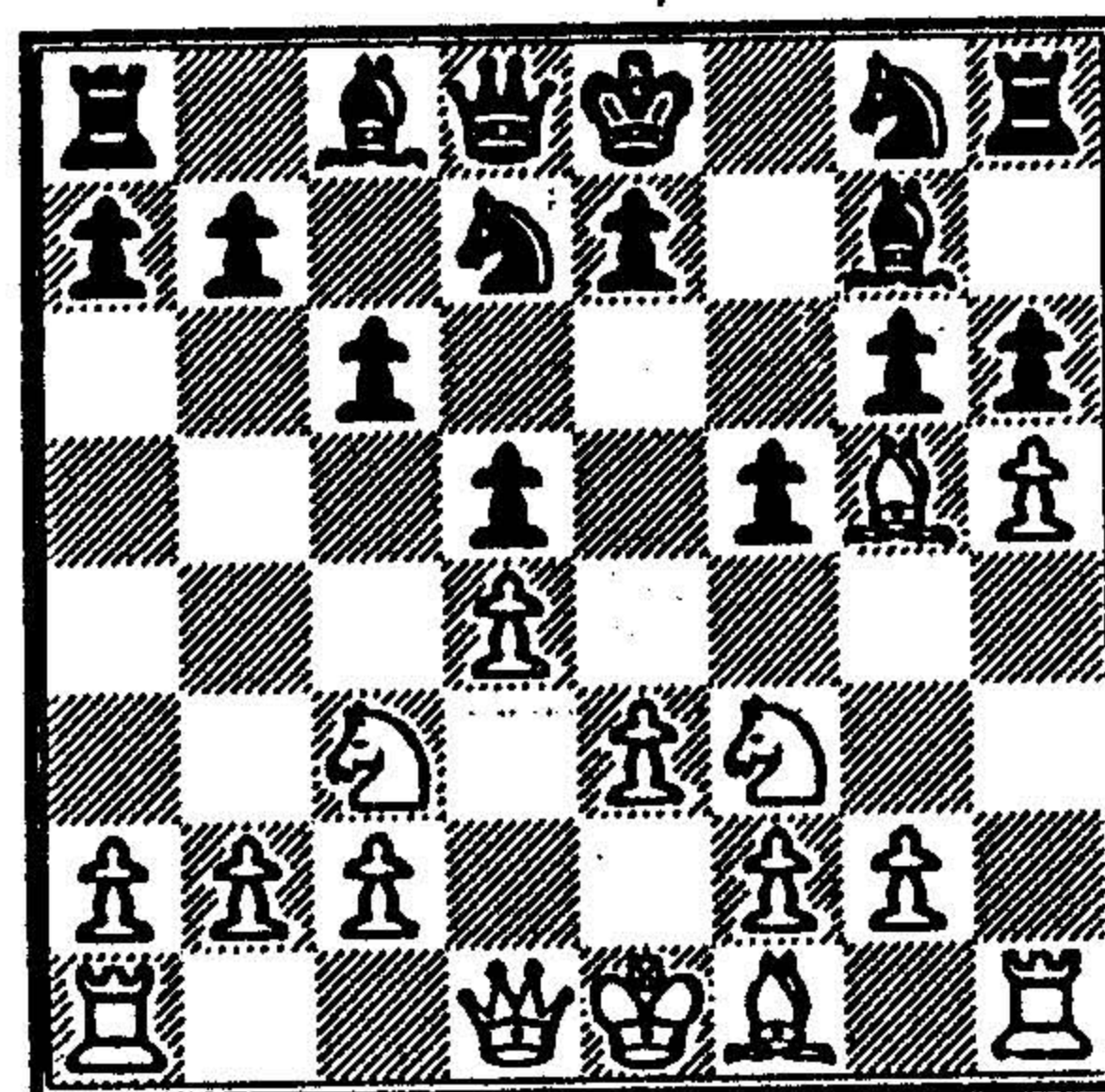
For after 14...Qxe4 15.Bd3, the Queen is trapped again.

Dutch A80

Rogelio Ortega  
Jiri Plesek

Telese Terme 1993

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.h4 c6 6.Nf3 Nd7? 7.h5 h6?



8.hxg6! hxg5 9.Rxh8 Bxh8 10.Nxg5 Qb6

There is no defense. If 10...Bg7 11.Ne6, or 10...Bf6 11.g7!, or 10...Ndf6 11.Nf7 etc. 11.g7! 1-0

For 11...Bxg7 12.Qh5+ Kd8 13.Ne6 is a nice mate.

The raid of the h-pawn and White's whole tactical idea is typical for this variation. The next example is twenty years older: Vaganian-Knezevic, Dubna 1973 1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.h4 Bg7 5.Qd2 c6 6.Nf3 Nd7? (6...h6 is necessary) 7.h5 h6 8.hxg6! hxg5 9.Rh7! Rxh7 (if 9...Kf8 or 9...Bf6, then 10.Nxg5) 10.gxh7 Ngf6 11.Qxg5 Kf7 12.Qxf5 Nb6 13.Ne5+ Kf8 14.Qf4 Qe8 15.g4 Nbd7 16.O-O-O Nxe5 17.dxe5 Qf7 18.exf6 Qxf6 19.Qxf6+ Bxf6 20.g5!! Bxg5+ 21.e3 Bf6 22.Bd3, and White won (see Informant 17/105).

Dutch A84

Giuseppe Laco  
FM Mario Lanzani

Imperia 1991

1.c4 f5 2.g4!? fxg4 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

The English has now transposed into the Dutch (1.d4 f5 2.c4 d6 3.g4 fxg4 4.e4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6). ECO's meager presentation stops before the 10th move, conclu-



ding that Black has the advantage. Maybe, but practice doesn't show it convincingly.

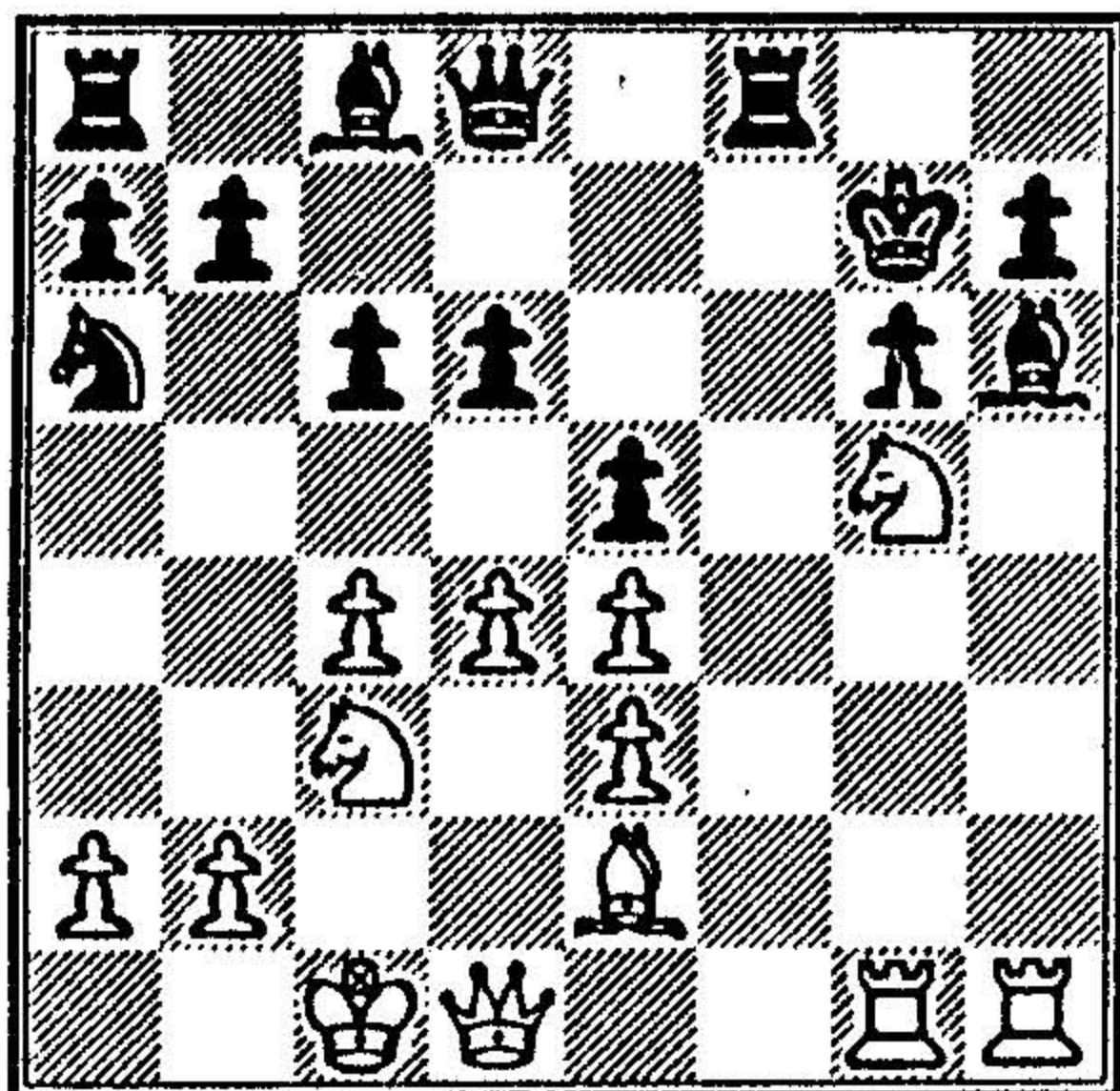
6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qa4 +!?

An interesting idea: if 7...Nbd7? 8.e5!, or 7...Bd7 8.Qb3.

7...c6 8.O-O-O O-O 9.h3 Na6 10.Be2 gxf3?! 11.Nxh3 Ng4 12.Rdg1 Nxe3 13.fxe3 Bh6?!

Counterattack by 13...e5 or 13...c5 is to be preferred.

14.Ng5 Kg7 15.Qd1 e5



16.Rxh6!? Kxh6 17.Rh1 + Kxg5??

Suicide. After 17...Kg7 18.Rxh7 + Kg8 19.Qg1, White has an attack, but whether it would succeed is not clear.

18.Rxh7 exd4

There is no help for Black's exposed King. If 18...Rh8 19.Qg1 + Kf6 20.Qf2 + Bf5 21.Qh4 + g5 (21...Ke6 22.d5 + and mate) 22.Qh6 + Bg6 23.Qg7 + Ke6 24.d5 + cxd5 25.cxd5 mate.

19.Qh1 Kf6 20.exd4 Bf5 21.exf5 1-0

The theoretical reputation of the closely investigated Staunton Gambit is not very high, but in practice it is still one of White's more dangerous weapons.

*Dutch Staunton Gambit A82*

Codazza  
Passelli

*Italy 1992*

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 d5 5.fxe4 dxe4 6.Bg5 Bf5 7.Bc4 Nc6 8.Nge2 Qd7

The main line, considered as Black's best defense.

9.d5!?

New idea. After the routine 9.O-O e6 10.Qe1 O-O-O Black stands well.

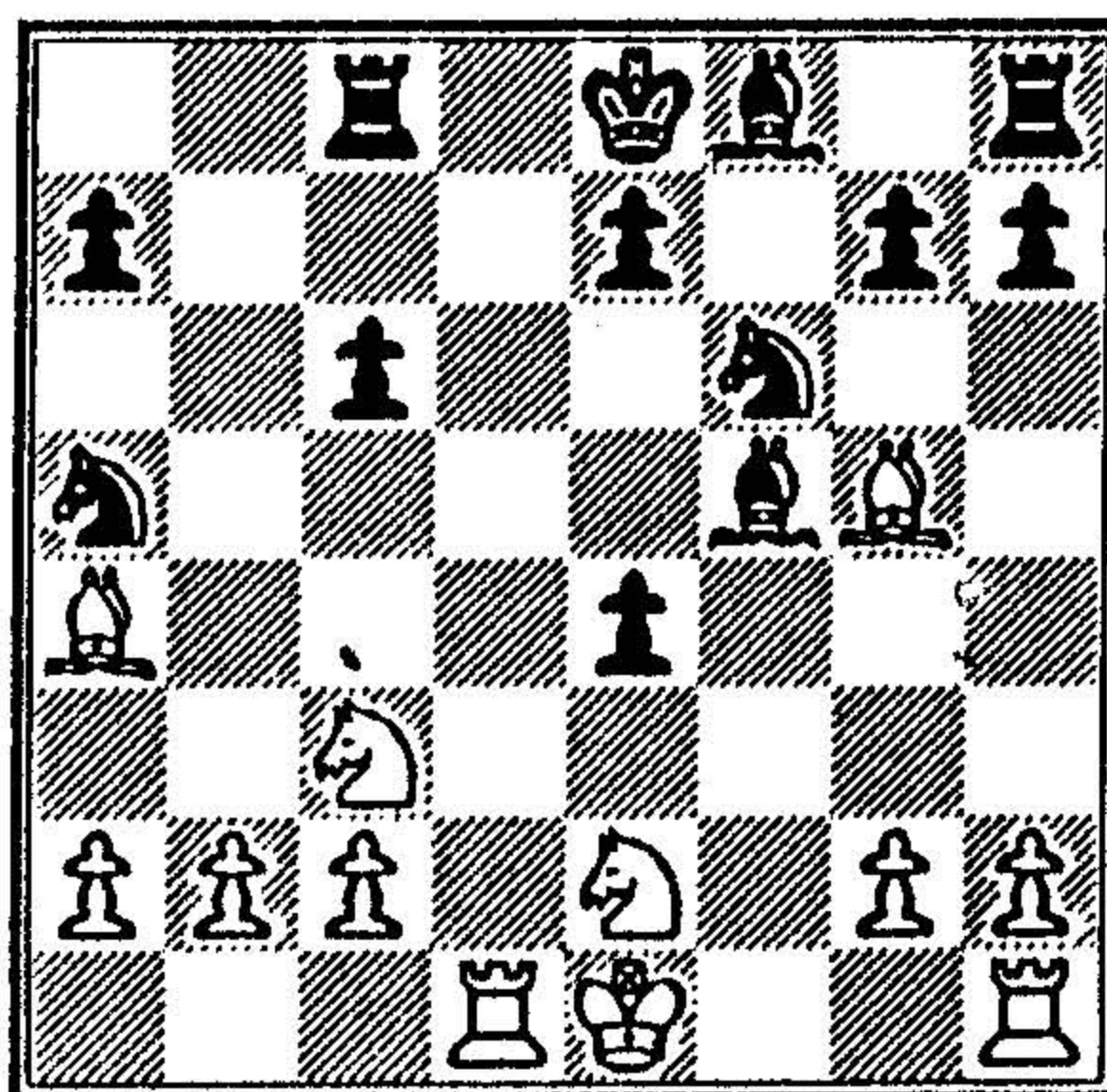
9...Na5 10.Bb5 c6 11.dxc6 Qxd1 + 12.Rxd1 bxc6?!

If 12...Nxc6, then 13.Nd4 or 13.Ng3 and White will recapture the e4-pawn with slightly better chances, but, as we shall see, this was

the lesser misfortune for Black.

13.Ba4 Rc8?

Loses. Black has overlooked a basic tactical element—double attack, here feasible with the help of the pin. He should play 13...e6 or 13...Bd7 with an inferior, but playable, position.



14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Rd5! 1-0

*Dutch Staunton Gambit A83*

Dieter Probst  
Roger Luber

*Switzerland 1993*

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.f3 d5 6.fxe4 dxe4 7.Bc4 Nbd7?!

More often 7...Bg4 8.Qd2 e6 is played, but Black has in mind something new.

8.Nge2 Qa5

ECO deals only with Taimanov's analysis: 8...Nb6 9.Bb3 Nbd5 10.O-O, with advantage for White.

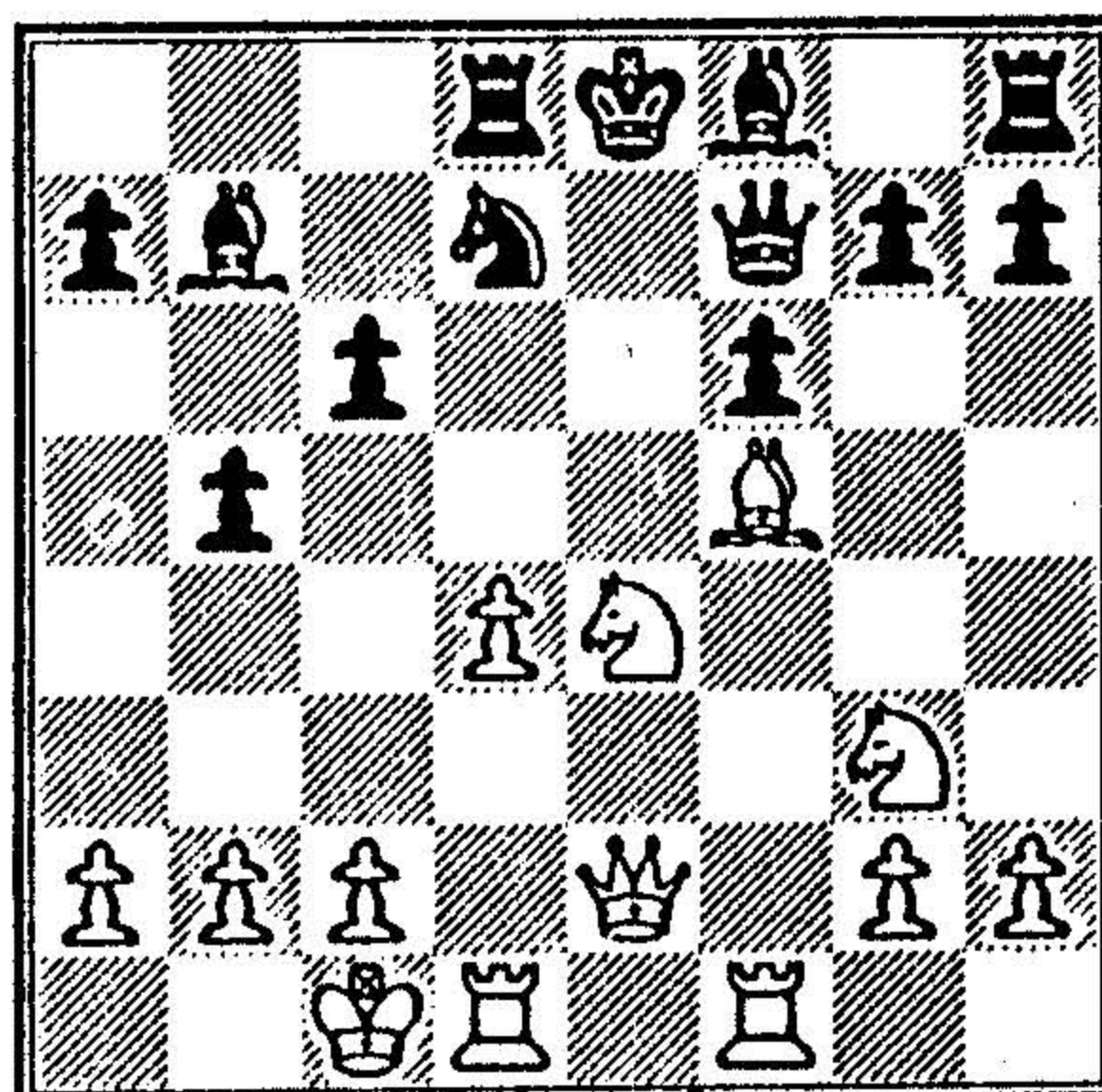
9.Qd2 Qf5

That's that. Obviously Black's idea is to support his e4-pawn with the Queen, but is this an appropriate task for the strongest piece?

10.Ng3 Qg6 11.O-O-O b5 12.Bb3 Bb7? 13.Be6! Rd8 14.Rhf1 Nc5 15.Bf5 Qf7 16.Bxf6 exf6

No better is 16...gxf6 17.Qe2 Ne6 18.Nxb5 cxb5 19.Qxb5 + Rd7 20.d5 etc.

17.Qe2 Nd7 18.Ncxe4



There is no more helpless position than this. 18...Qc4 19.Nd6 + is a Double Check and Mate, 18...Qe7 19.Nd6 + is a simple mate, 18...Be7 19.Nd6 + loses the Queen and 18...Ne5 prolongs resistance for only few moves.

All the games till now have ended in White's favor, which can give one the wrong impression. In many other instances Black prevails, but more often this success is due to careful and proper defense with lesser tactics, as in our last two examples.

*Dutch A80*

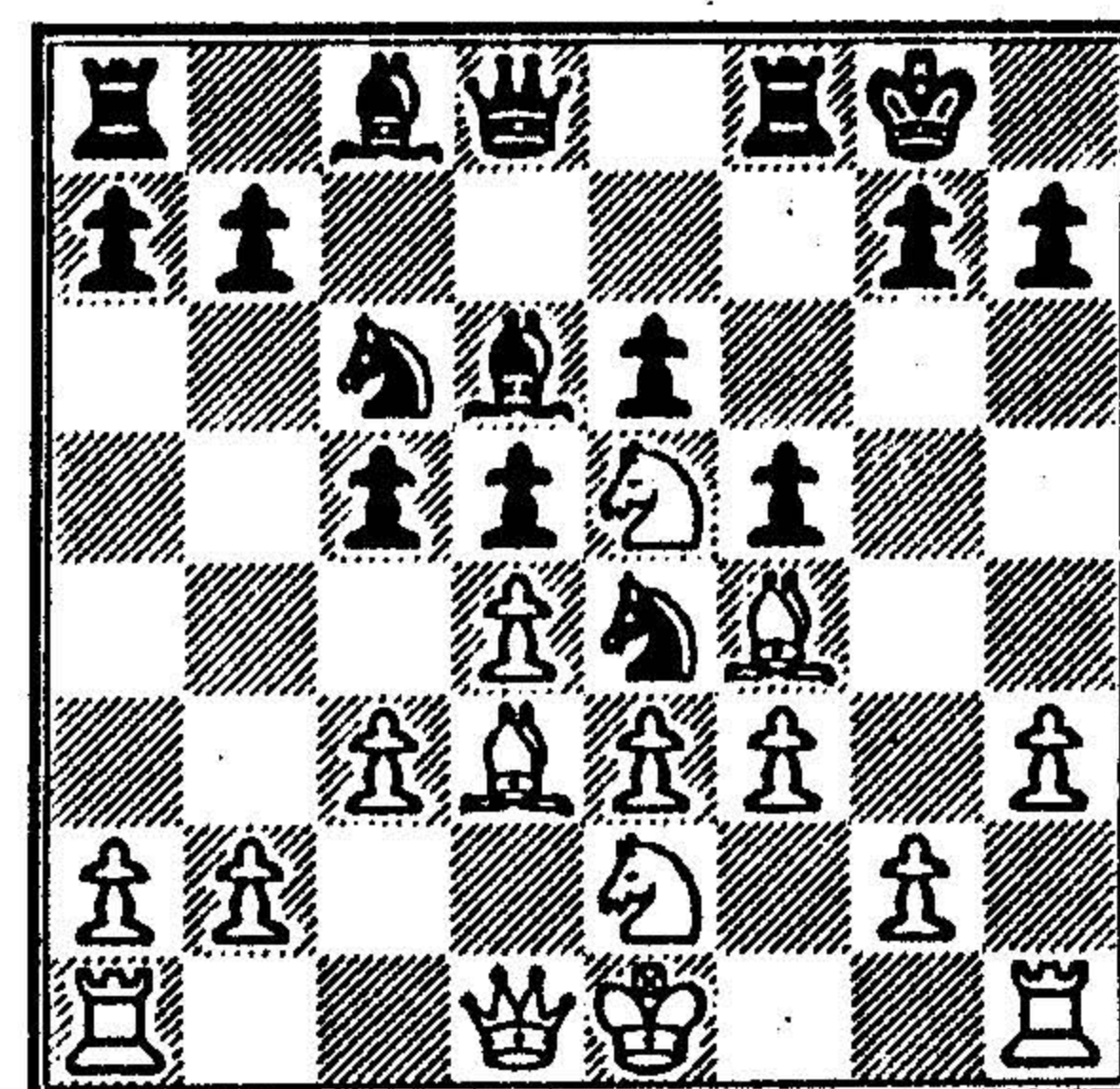
GM Zsuzsa Polgar  
GM Valery Salov

*Madrid 1992*

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3

This game will show that in all these assaulting continuations White must play very actively, in gambit style, and positional plans are not appropriate.

4...e6 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Bd3 O-O 7.h3 Ne4 8.Ne2 c5 9.c3 Nc6 10.Ne5 Bf6 11.f3?



11...cxd4! 12.Nxc6? (12.exd4) Qh4 + 13.g3 Nxc6 14.Bxc3 Bxc3 + 15.Kf1 bxc6 16.cxd4 f4! 17.Nxc3 Qxc3 18.e4 e5! 0-1

*Dutch A84*

IM Dimitar Lalev  
IM Semko Semkov

*Bulgaria (ch) 1992*

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 f5 5.g4 Nf6 6.gxf5 (6.h3!?) exf5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bc4 Be6 9.Qb3 Bb4 10.Nge2? b5 11.Bxd5 Bxd5 12.Qxb4 a5 13.Nxd5 axb4 14.Nxb4 Na6 15.Bd2 Nxb4 16.Bxb4 Qd5 17.Rg1 Rxa2 18.Rc1 Qb3 19.Ba3 b4 0-1



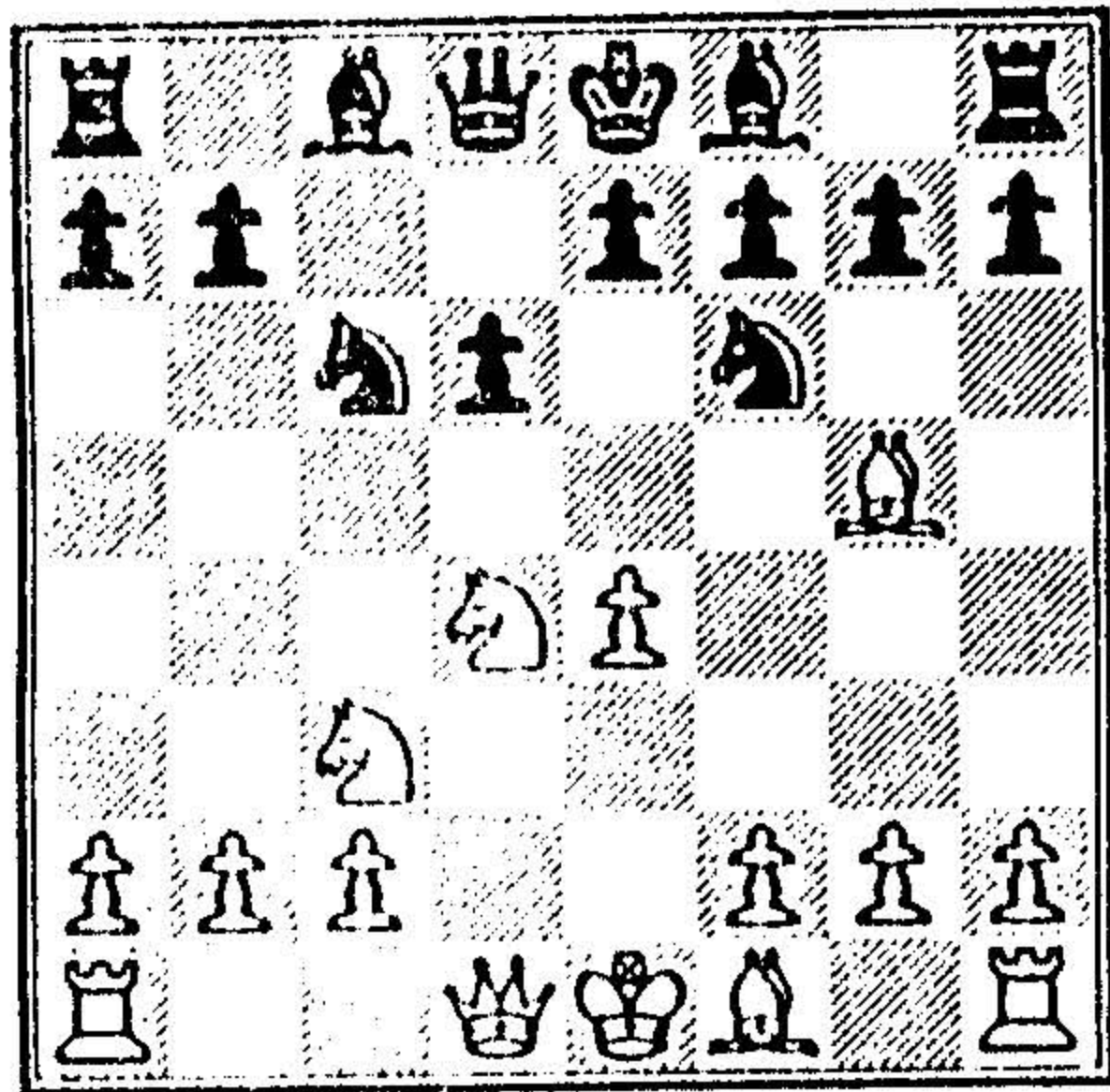
# The Sicilian at the Groningen PCA

by GM Leonid Shamkovich

The Sicilian Defense has long been extremely popular in top level competitions. At Groningen, the battle between White and Black finished in Black's favor. The players examined practically all the more or less common systems, with the Richter-Rauzer (B60-B67) being seen in twelve out of thirty Sicilians.

## Richter-Rauzer B60

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5



### Tiviakov-Gulko (Round 9)

6...a6!?

This rare maneuver allows Black's kingside pawn formation to be destroyed. The old (and controversial) conception is that Black will get the Bishop pair as compensation.

7.Bxf6 gxf6 8.Qd2

DeFirmian played more actively here against Tarjan, USA (ch) 1983, with 8.Bc4!?, and after 8...Qb6?! (8...e6!? is preferable) 9.Ndc2! Bg7?! 10.O-O O-O 11.Bb3, White was slightly better.

A more modern example of a similar plan was shown in Schmitz-Lanka, Ger-

many 1992, with 6...Bd7 7.Bc4 Qa5 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Ndc2 Rg8 10.Ng3 Rg5! 11.Bb3 h5 12.h4 Re5.

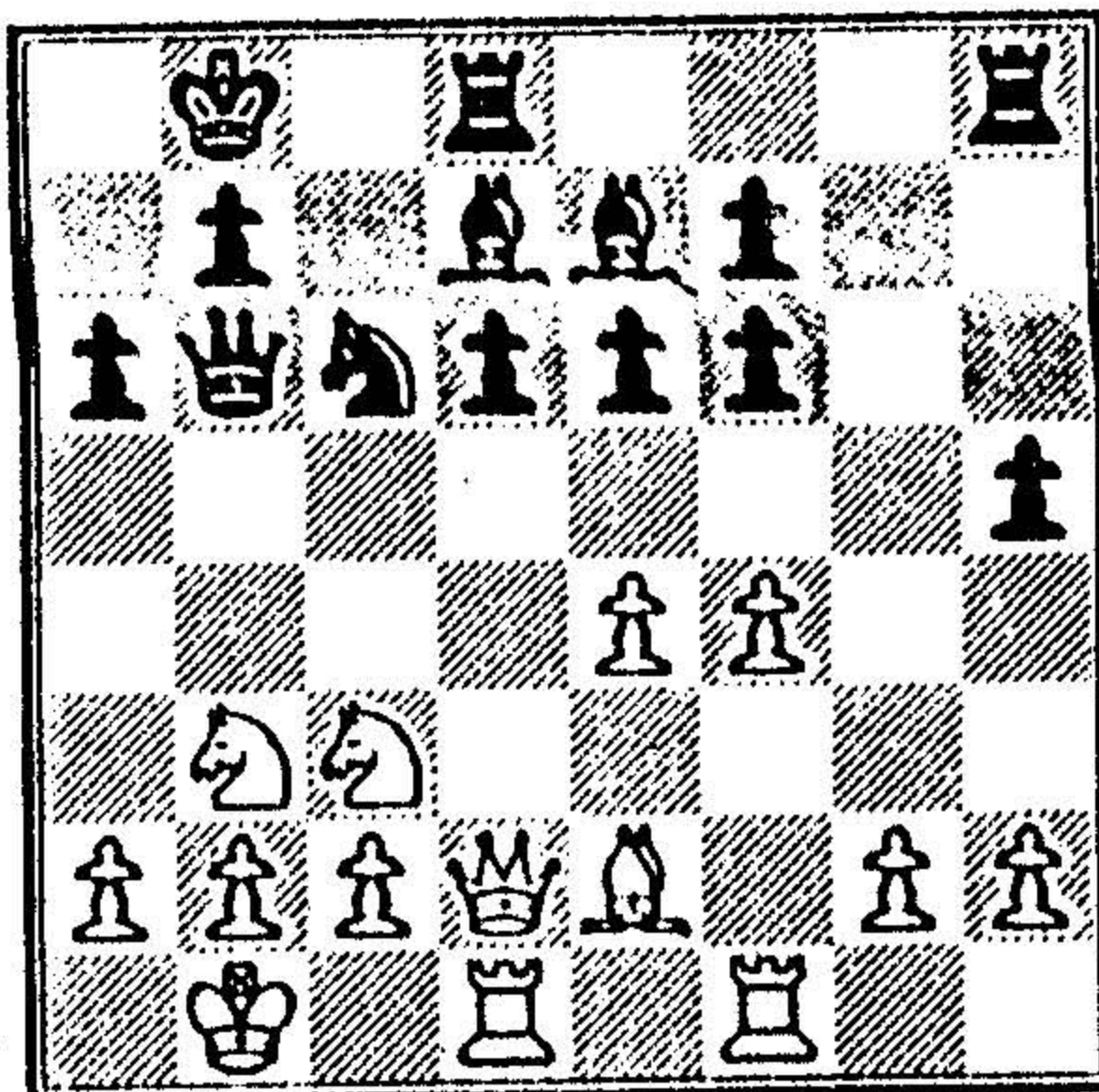
8...e6 9.O-O-O Qb6 10.Nb3 Bd7 11.f4 O-O-O 12.Be2 h5

Preventing 13.Bh5.

13.Rhf1

13.h4!? Be7 14.Bf3 is worth attention.

13...Be7 14.Kb1 Kb8!



A similar position arose in the famous game Keres-Botvinnik, Moscow 1956, Alekhine Memorial: 6...e6 7.Qd2 h6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.O-O-O a6 10.f4 h5 11.Kb1 Bd7 12.Be2 Qb6 13.Nb3 O-O-O 14.Rhf1, but with the Bishop on f8. Botvinnik continued with 14...Na5? and after 15.Rf3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Kb8 17.Na4!, had serious problems. Keres himself suggested 14...Kb8 as the best choice. Gulko employs his advice 37(!) years later and chooses to counterattack on the kingside, having an extra tempo, since he hadn't played ...h7-h6.

15.Rf3 Rdg8! 16.Bf1 Be8 17.Qe1 h4! 18.Rd2

18.Rh3 is met by 18...Rg4!, but more sound is 18.Na4 Qb4 19.Qxb4 Nxb4 20.Nb6, equalizing.

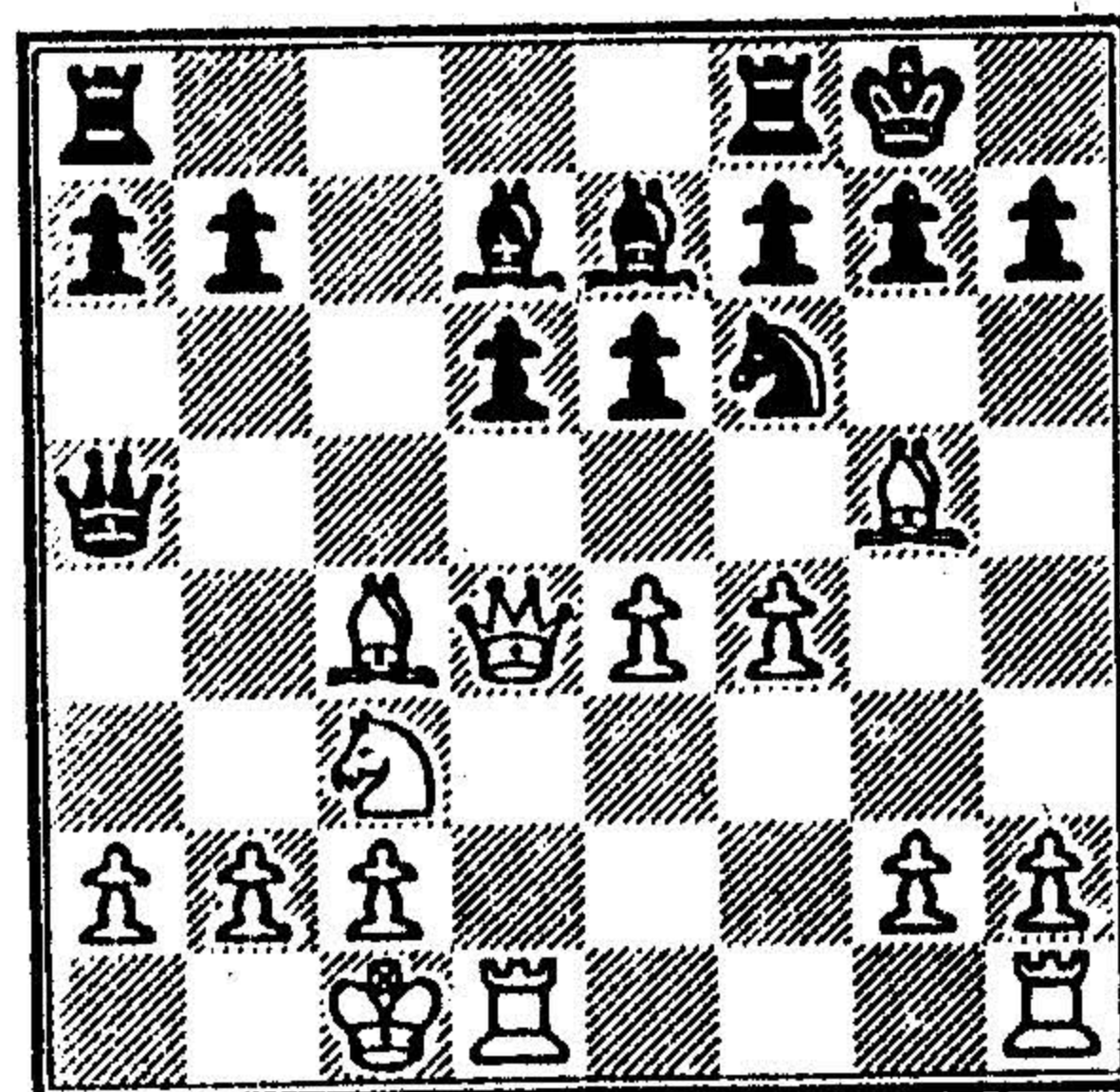
18...Rg7 19.Rf2 Na5

This maneuver is more to the point here.

20.Nd1 Nxb3 21.axb3 Qc5 22.c3 b5 Black has achieved adequate counterplay.

## Richter-Rauzer B65

The main line with 6...e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.O-O-O O-O 9.f4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 Qa5 11.Bc4 Bd7



... has been more popular. First, let me show you a dramatic game in this line.

### Shirov-Kramnik (Round 8)

12.Rd3!?

A very aggressive idea which was played in only one game before this.

12...Rad8 13.Rg3 Kh8 14.Rf1 h6!

Looks dangerous, but it is necessary; if 14...Bc6, 15.f5! would be very strong.

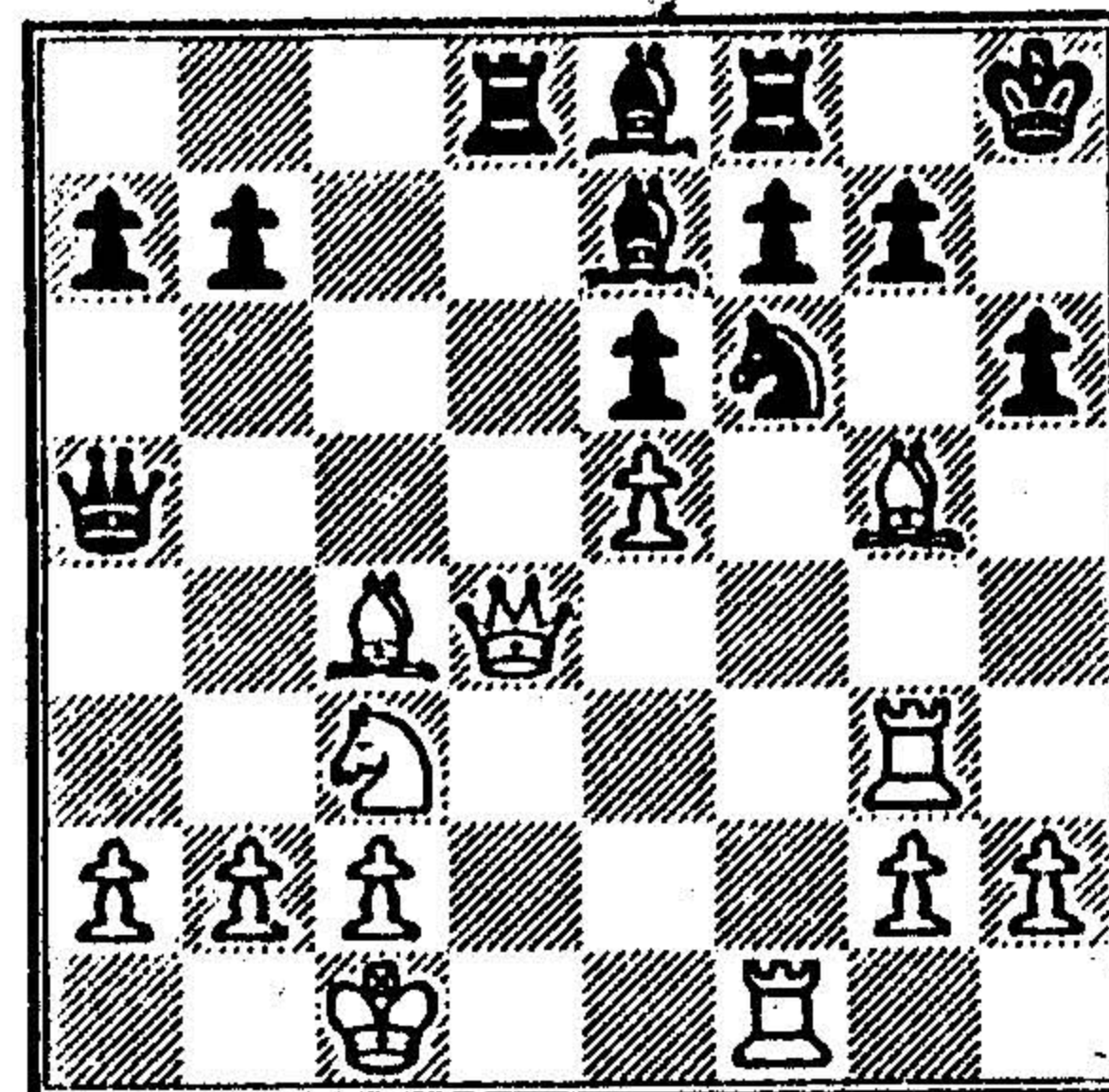
15.e5!?

A worthy reply.

15...dxe5

White would have a substantial advantage after 15...fxg5 16.exd6!

16.fxe5 Be8



The critical position has arisen. 17.Qf4?

The horrible defect of this move will become clear later on. Correct is 17.Qe3! and here both 17...Ng4 18.Rxg4 Bxg5 19.Rxg5 hxg5 20.Qxg5 as well as 17...Nd5

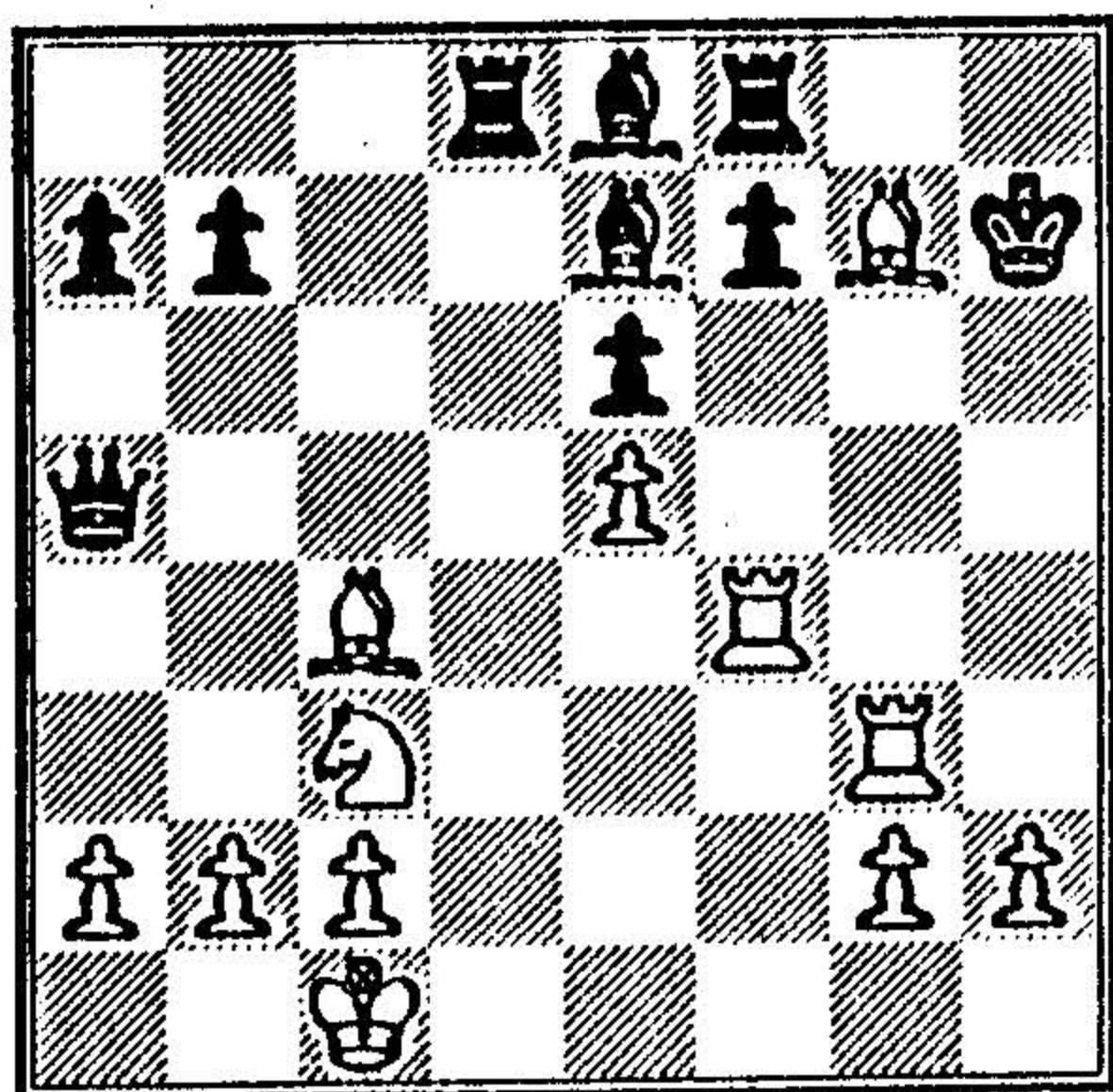


18.Nxd5 Bxg5 19.Rxg5 exd5 20.Bd3 give White a strong attack. However, 16...Bc6 could improve Black's chances to survive.

17...Nh5! 18.Bxh6

A forced, but very tempting, Queen sacrifice.

18...Nxf4 19.Bxg7+ Kh7 20.Rxf4



20...Rg8?

Both superstars overlooked the fantastic impact of 20...Qxc3!!, winning. 21.bxc3 Ba3+ leads to mate, while 21.Rxc3 Bg5 loses a great deal of material. The text move leads only to a draw.

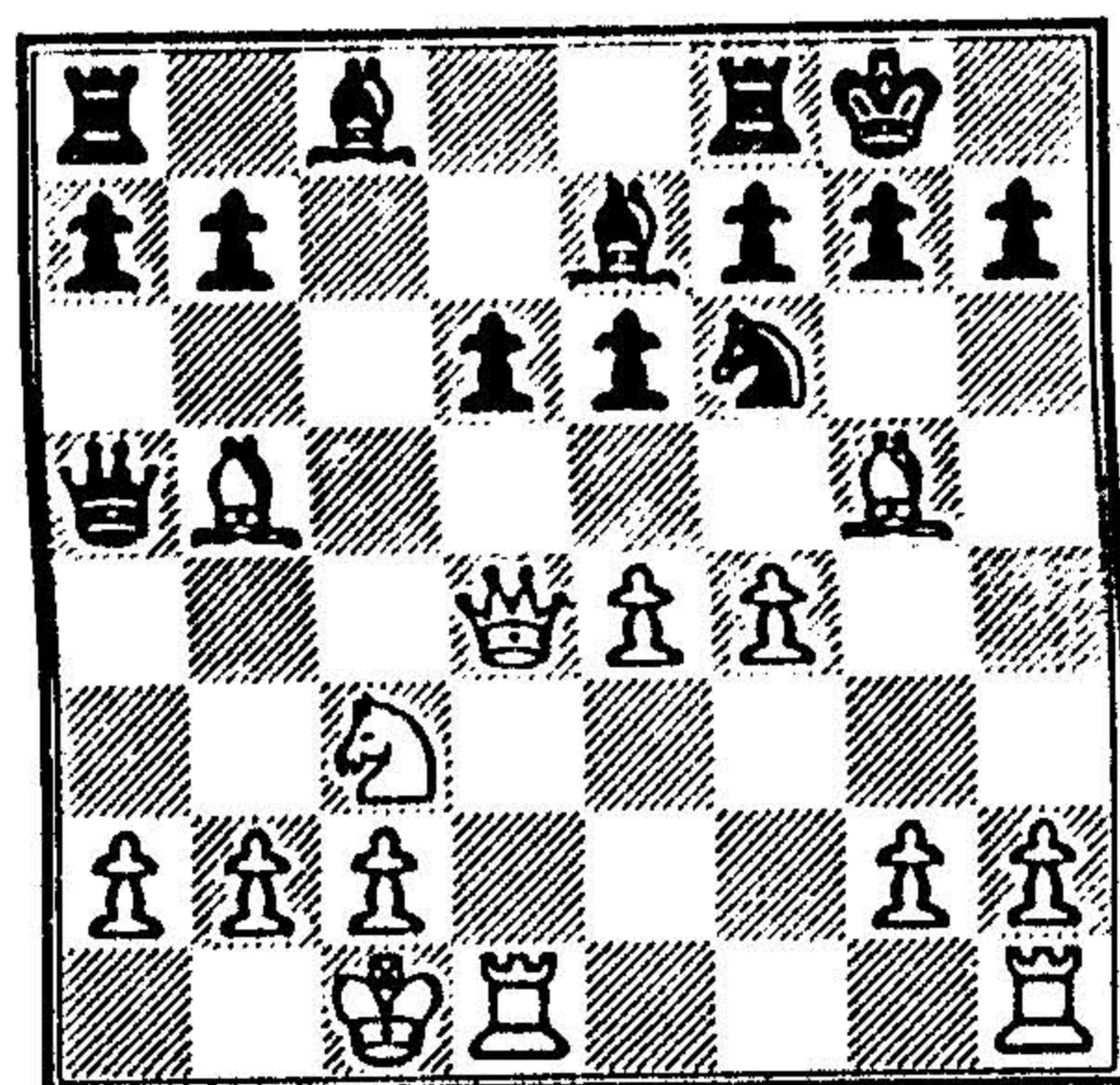
21.Rf4 Rg7 22.Rxg7+ Kh6 23.Rg8 Kh7 24.R8g7+ Draw

To arrive at solid conclusions about this puzzling variation, we have to reexamine the possibilities 16...Bc6 and 17.Qc3.

**K**amsky tried a very interesting innovation against Kramnik in round six with 11.Bb5!? instead of the usual 11.Bc4.

Kamsky-Kramnik (Round 6)

11.Bb5!?



Curiously enough, I discovered this move about three years ago, but never employed it. When I showed it to other Masters, no one believed in it. The fact is

that the new idea is quite venomous.

11...h6!

If 11...a6 12.e5! dxe5 13.fxe5 Rd8 14.Qh4!, White has the upper hand; 11...Rd8 12.e5 dxe5 13.Qxe5 favors White as well.

12.Bh4 Rd8

12...a6 can be met here by 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 Rd8 15.exf6! Rxd4 16.fxe7 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Bd7 18.Bxd7 and White is better.

13.e5 dxe5 14.Qxe5 Ng4!

Better than 14...a6 15.Bd3.

15.Rxd8+ Qxd8 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Qd4 b6 18.Be2

If 18.Bc6, then 18...Bb7 equalizes.

18...Nf6 19.Rd1 Bb7

The game is completely equal. The question is: Will the rather eccentric 11.Bb5!? be a promising area of investigation in the Rauzer Sicilian?

**T**he advance 12.e5 is more common and appeared in two games.

Oll-Hodgson (Round 3)

12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Bc6 14.Bd2

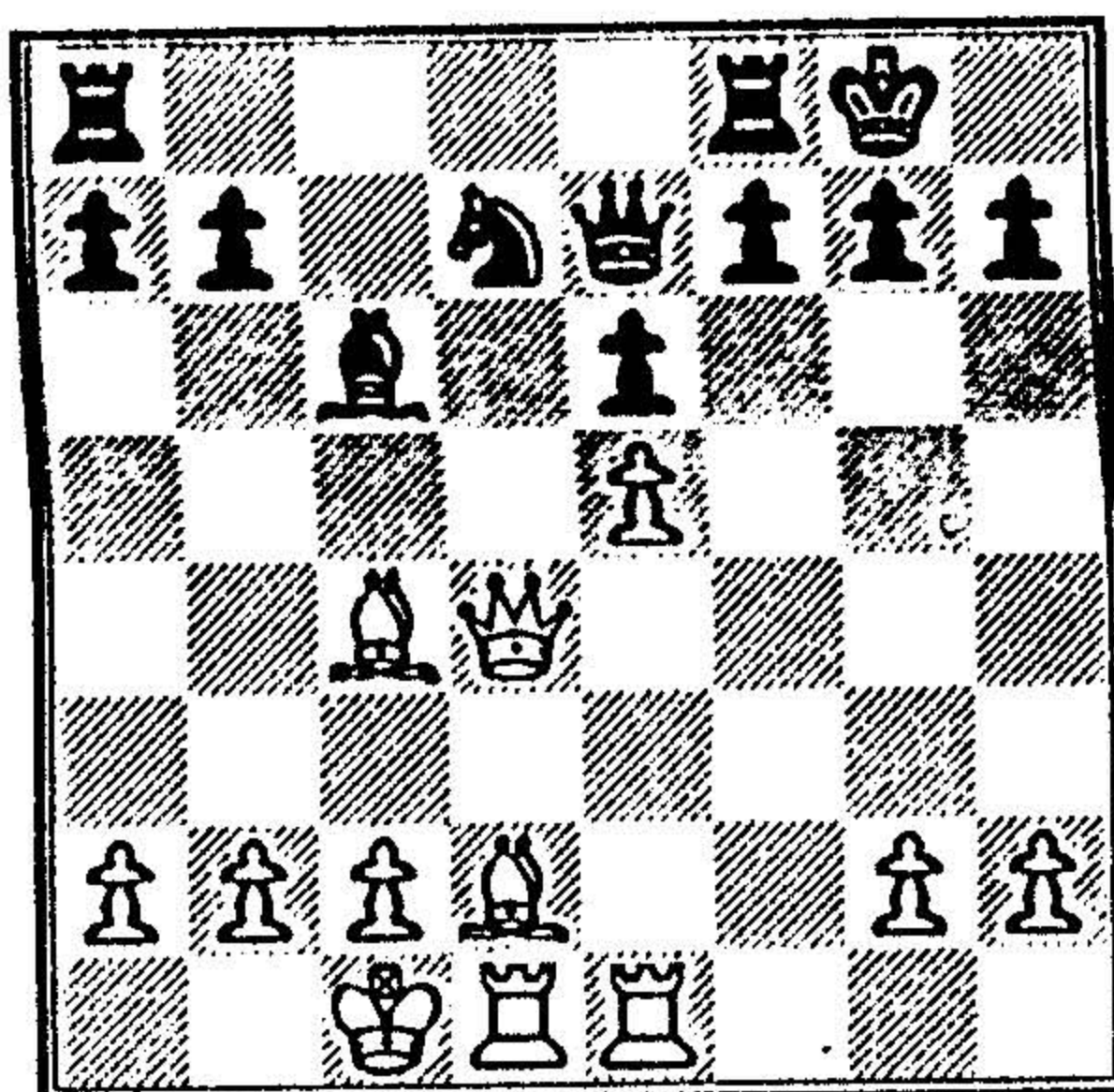
The late Mikhail Tal tried 14.Qf4 against Bradvarevic at Kislovodsk 1964, but achieved nothing after 14...Nd5 15.Bxd5 Bxg5 16.Qxg5 exd5 17.Rd3 d4!

14...Nd7 15.Nd5 Qc5

15...Qd8 16.Nxc7+ etc. is usually played. The British GM's TN contains a trap: 16.Bb4? Bg5+!, winning.

16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.Rhe1

The weak e5-pawn needs protection. Gufeld-Yudasin, USSR 1982, continued 17.h4 Rfc8 18.Be3 Qc5! and Black is okay, since on 19.Qxc5 Nxc5 20.Bxc5 Bxg2 Black is much better. If White tries 18.Bg5, 18...Qc5 forces a Queen trade.



17...Rfd8

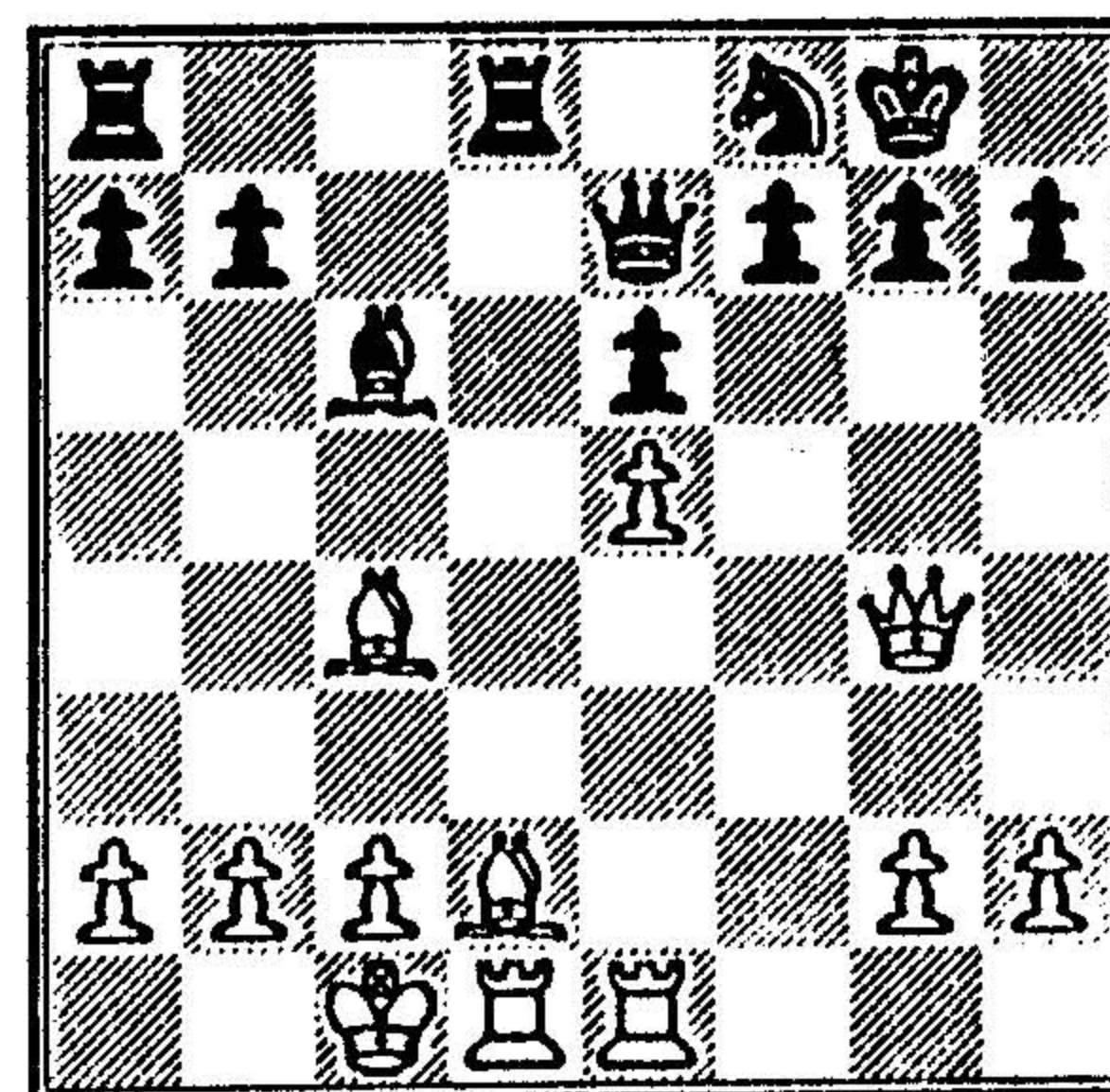
Better than the older 17...Rfc8, but

17...Nb6! seems to me more promising for Black, as in Sherzer-Wolff, USA (ch) 1992: 18.Bb3 Rfc8 19.Qg4 Bd5 20.Kb1 a5! 21.Bg5 Qf8 22.Re3 a4 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Rh3 Qc5 (24...a3! is winning) 25.e3 a3 (25...Qc4!?) 26.Qh4.

18.Qg4

18.Bf1!? Nf8 19.Qc3, equal, is a possible alternative from Ehlvest-Salov, Linares 1991.

18...Nf8



19.Bd3?!

Quite natural, but likely wrong. A better try is 19.Bf1!, e.g., 19...Qc7 20.Bc3 Ng6 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rd1 Bd5 23.Qd4 and White is a little better, I. Gurevich-Rachels, USA (ch) 1992.

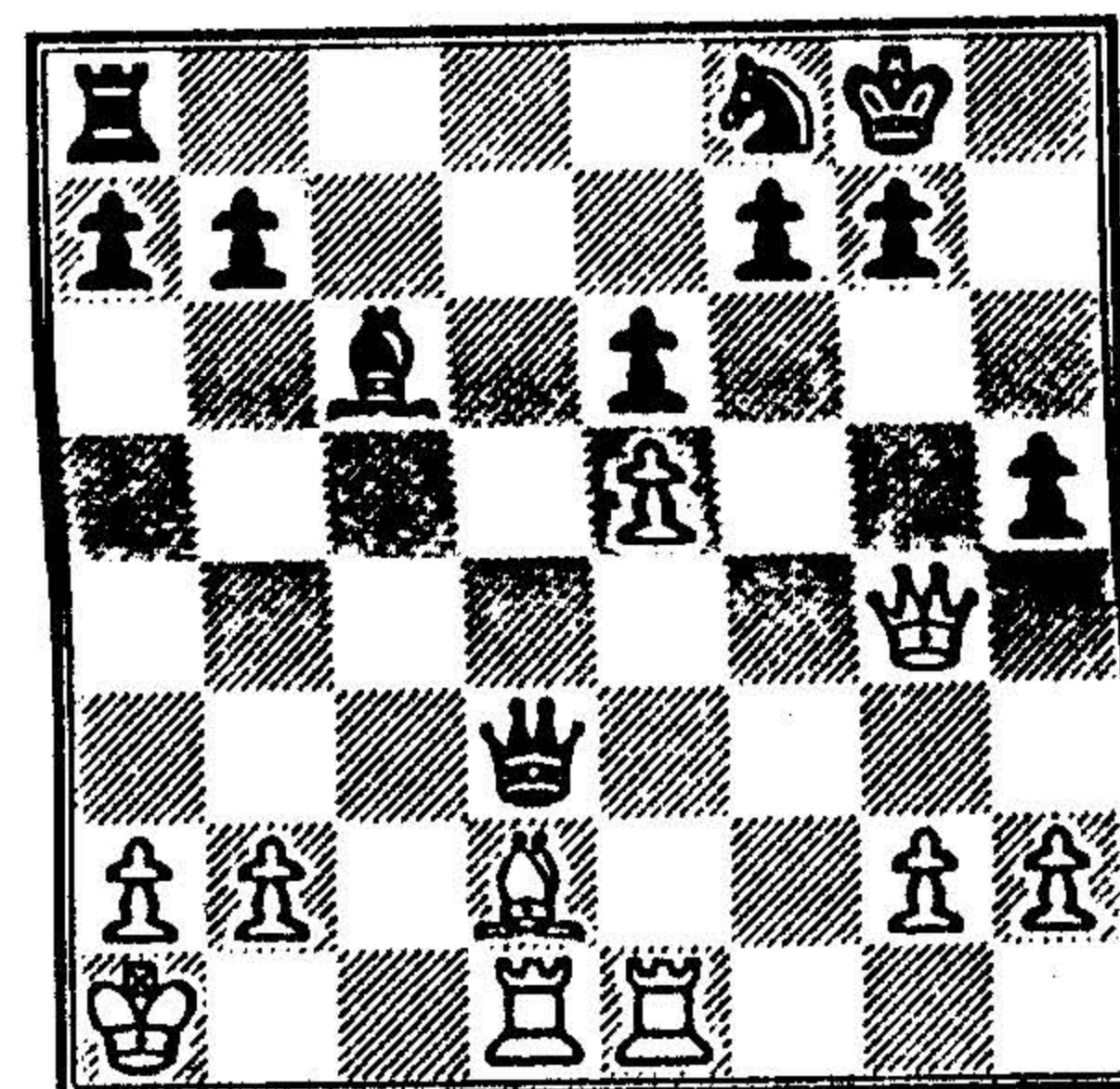
19...Rxd3!

This positional sac has been seen several times and has always been sufficient to equalize.

20.cxd3 Qd7 21.Kb1

Black could not hold the pawn because of 21.Bc3 Qd5! with a double-threat on a2 and g2. 21.Bb4 Qd5 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.Kb1 Qxg2 as seen in Kir. Georgiev-D. Gurevich, GMA Palma de Mallorca 1989, is good for Black as well.

21...Qxd3+ 22.Ka1 h5!



With the pawn and a very active and solid position, Black has nice compensation for the Exchange. The text draws off



White's Queen. Against Ivanchuk at Linares 1992, Anand played the weaker 22...Qf5 23.Qg3 Ng6 24.Be3 h6 25.Rf1 Qe4 26.Rd2 with the idea of 27.Rdf2 and White was a little better.

23.Qxh5?

Correct was 23.Qe2 Qxe2 24.Rxe2 Rd8 25.Rde1, equal, from Almasi-Tolnai, Hungary (ch) 1992.

23...Ba4! 24.Be3

If 24.b3 Qd4 1-25.Kb1 Bb5, and Black is a little better.

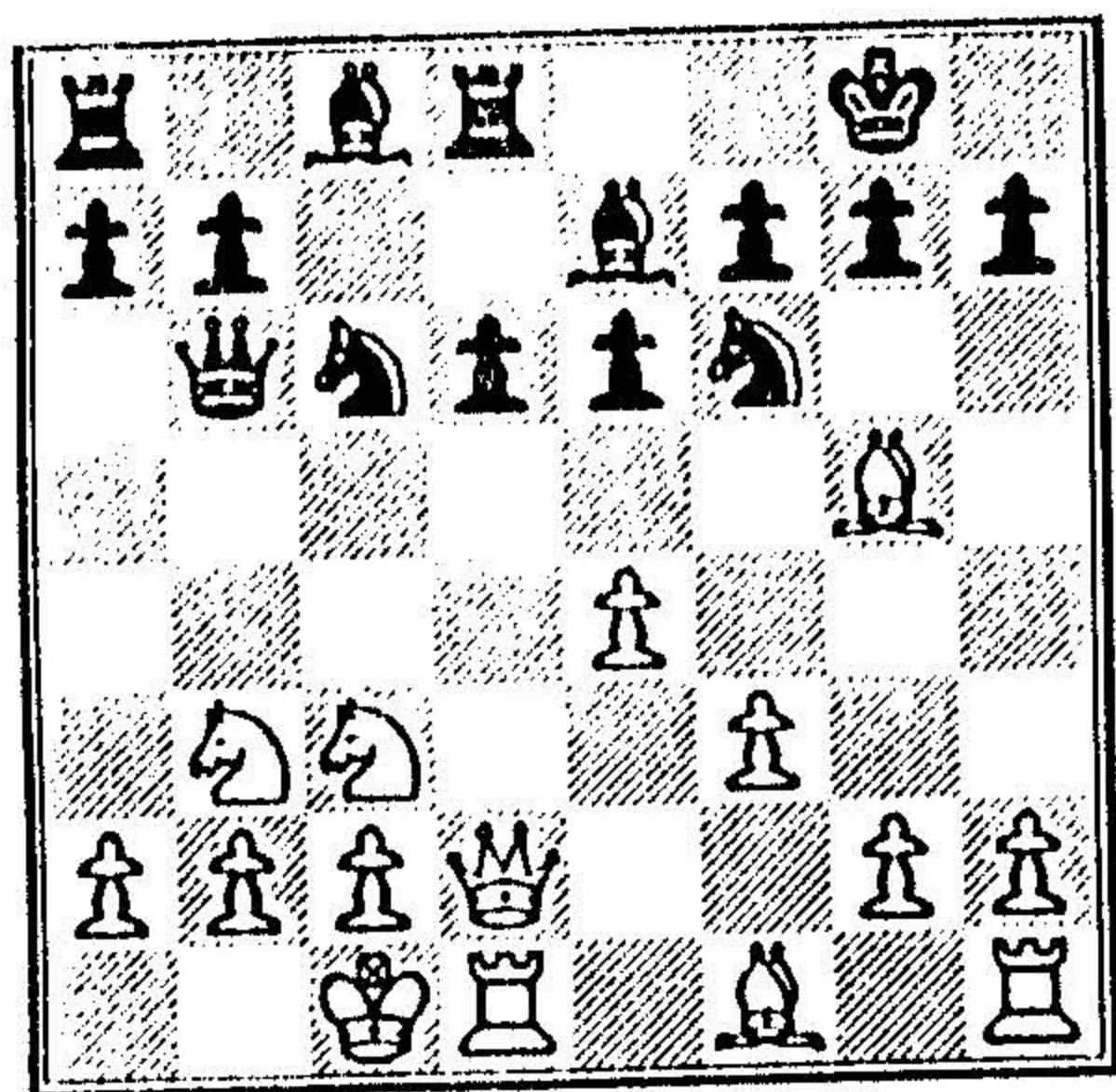
24...Bxd1 25.Rxd1 Qe4 26.Qg5 a5! 27.Qd2 Ng6

Black is for choice.

A second game on this subject is Dolmatov-Kramnik from round 10, which ended in a draw after 15.Nd5. Alas, it came at the end of a tense competition.

## Richter-Rauzer B63

6...e6 7.Qd2 Be7 8.O-O-O O-O 9.Nb3 Qb6 10.f3 Rd8



This old and well-known system is like a tightly compressed spring. The main lines are 11.Nb5 Rd7 12.Be3 Qd8 and 11.Be3 Qc7 12.Qf2 Nd7 13.Nb5 Qb8 with double-edged positions. The American GM tests a new move.

### Benjamin-Anand (Round 6)

11.Kb1!? Qc7

Black could equalize the game with the natural 11...d5 12.Bxf6 dxe4! 13.Qe1 Bxf6 14.Nxe4 Be7. Weaker would be 12.exd5, since on 12...Nxd5 13.Bxe7 Nxc3+! Black wins. Anand preferred a more complicated game.

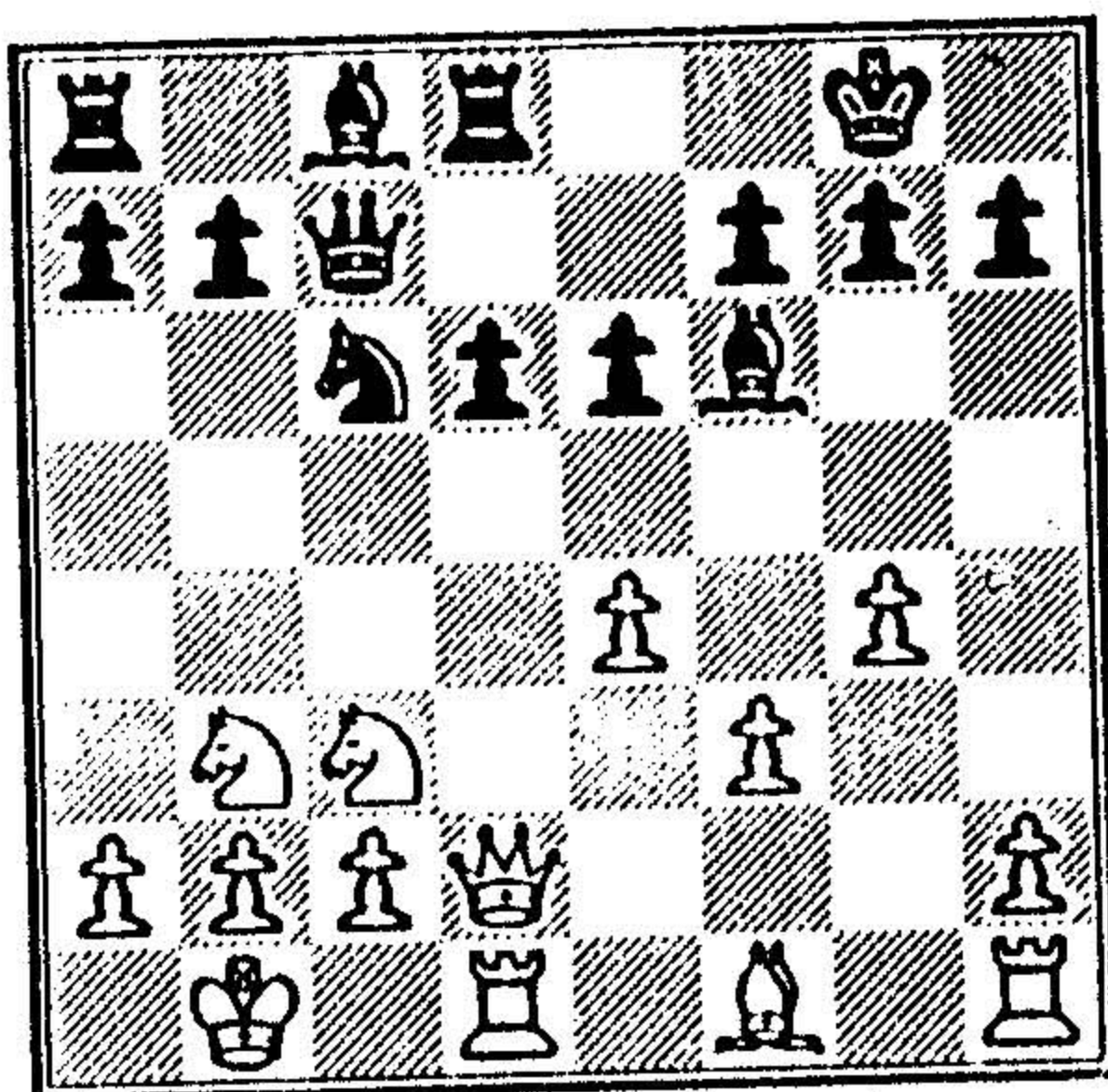
12.Bxf6!?

If 12.g4, 12...d5 is still very good.

12...Bxf6 13.g4

The beginning of a sharp pawn attack

which will almost succeed with some help from Black.



13...g6!?

Rather safer would have been 13...a6 14.g5 Be7 with an adequate defensive position.

14.h4 a6 15.g5 Bg7 16.h5 b5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.f4 b4 19.Na4

The White Knight finds itself out of play on this square. But after 19.Ne2 a5! Black's counterattack is in time.

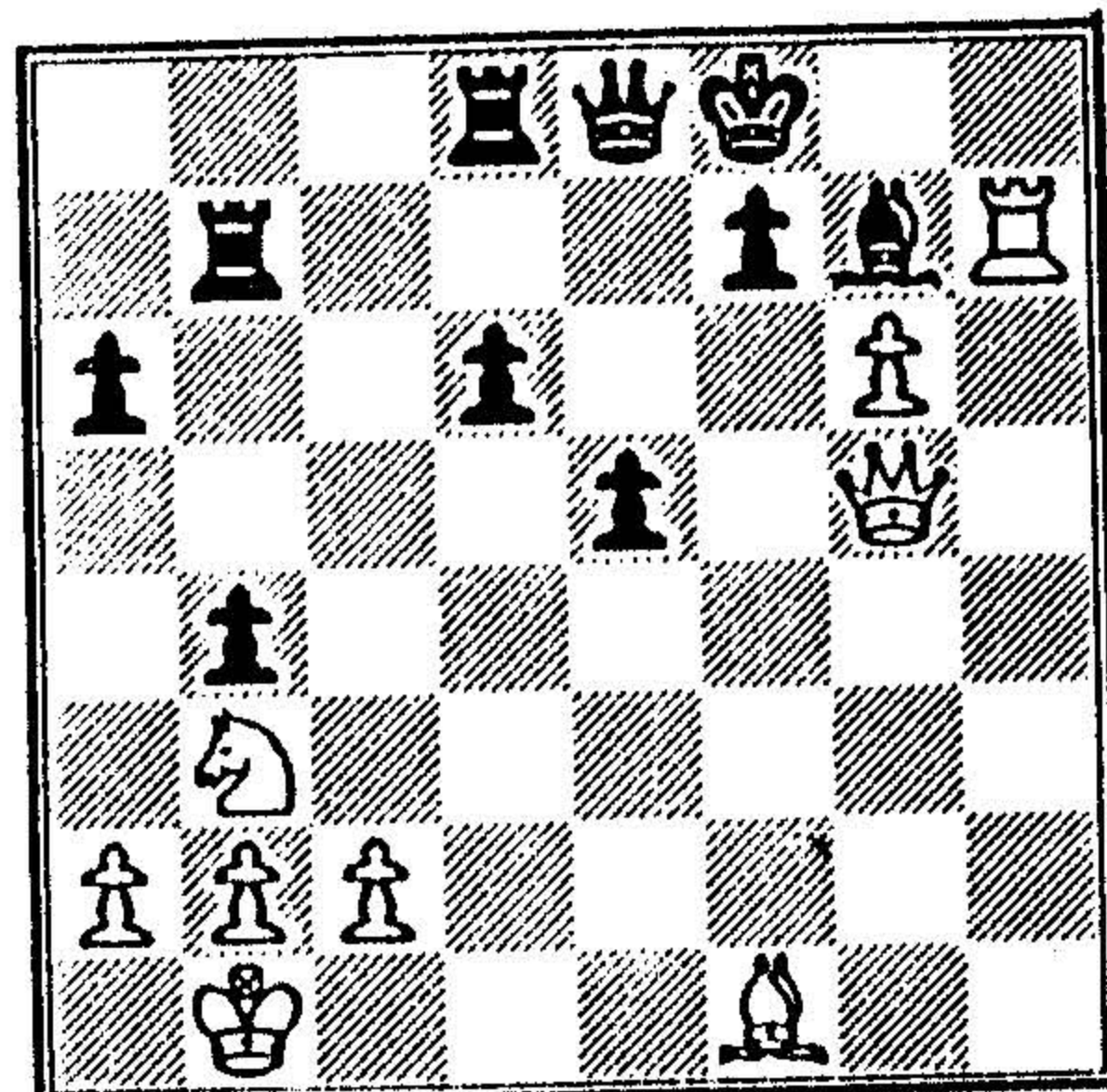
19...Rb8

If 19...d5, 20.e5! Ne7 21.Bd3 and White is better.

20.Qh2 Kf8 21.Rd3 e5 22.f5 gxf5 23.Rh3 Ne7

And Black defended successfully after

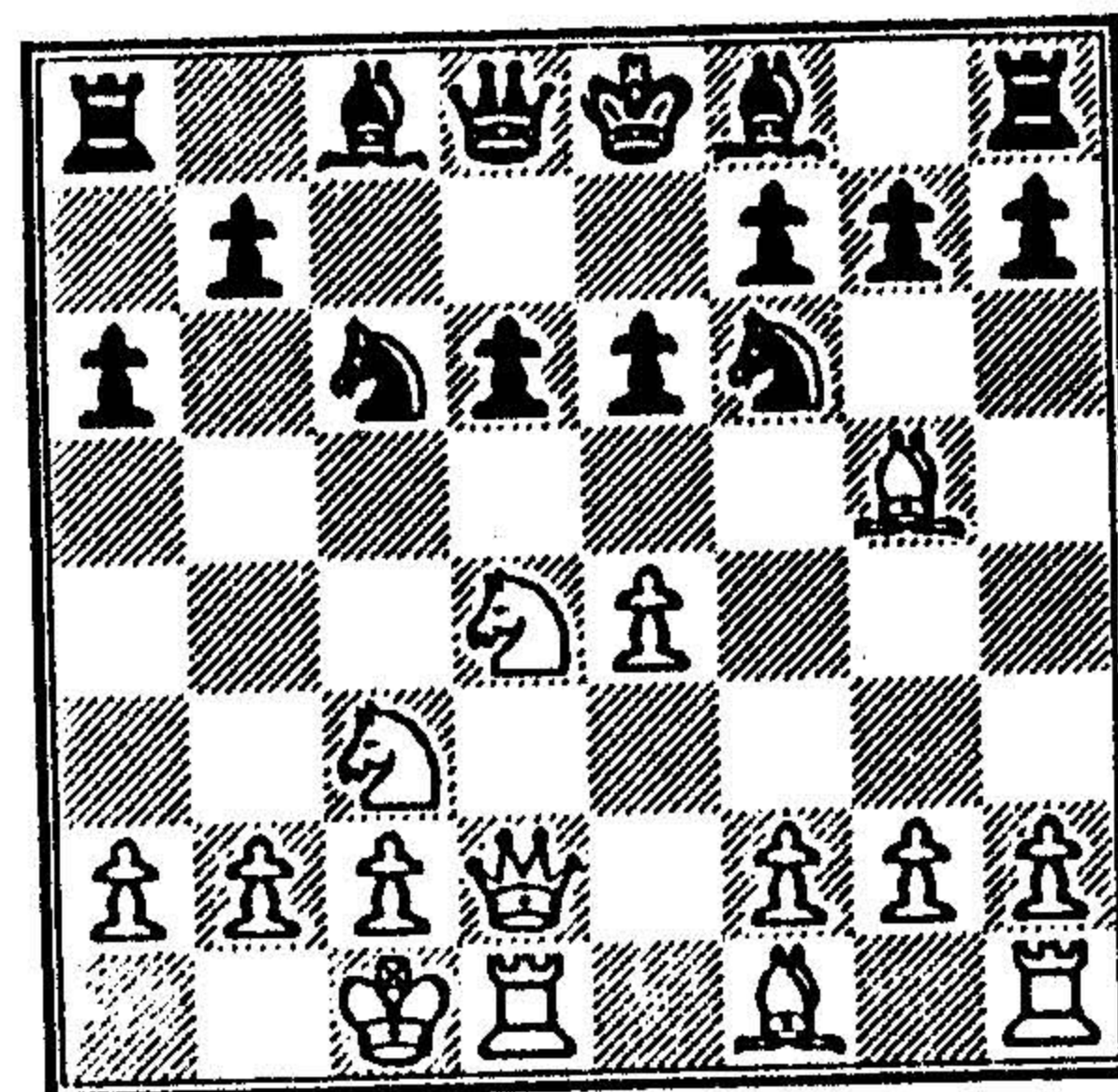
24.Rh8+ Ng8 25.Rxg8+ Kxg8 26.Qh7+ Kf8 27.exf5 Bxf5 28.Qxf5 Qc6! 29.g6 Rb7 30.Rh7 Qxa4 31.Qg5 Qe8!



This remarkable game showed the chances for both sides in this sharp system. It is clear to me that a *va banque* or all-out attack is too risky for White.

## Richter-Rauzer B66-67

6...e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.O-O-O



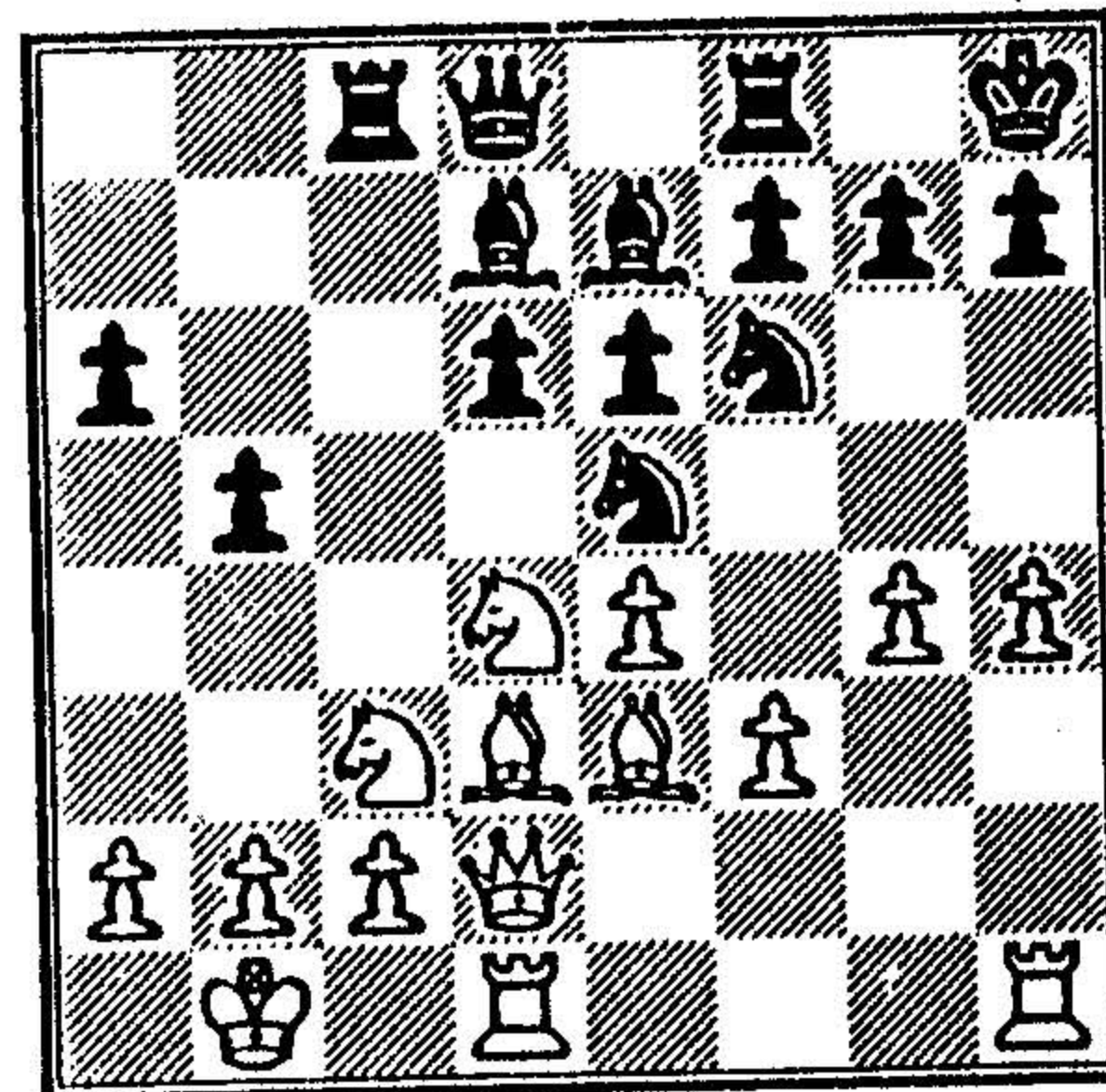
In this critical position two main lines were examined 8...Bd7 (B67) and 8...h6 (B66).

### Oll-Azmaiparashvili (Round 8)

8...Bd7 9.f3

This very popular solid move initiates a pawn storm with g4 and h4. Kasparov had a good game after 9.f4 h6 10.Bh4 g5! [Kasparov-Short, PCA (ch) London (2) 1993], but apparently better is 10.Bxf6! Qxf6 11.Nf3. Shirov-Dreev, Biel (izt) 1993, continued 11...Qd8 12.g4 N Qa5 13.h4 O-O-O 14.Bg2 g6? 15.Qe3 and White was slightly better (*Informant* 58/236).

9...Rc8 10.Kb1 Be7 11.h4 Ne5 g4 b5 13.Bd3 O-O 14.Be3 Kh8?



The wrong idea. 14...b4!? was worth attention, followed by 15.Nce2 d5! 16.g5 Nh5 17.exd5 exd5, sacrificing a pawn for the initiative, in the spirit of Kasparov.

15.h5 Rc7 16.g5 Ng8 17.f4 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Rxc4 19.f5 b4 20.Nce2 e5 21.f6

With a tremendous attack.

### Anand-Serper (Round 4)

8...h6 9.Be3

This has been encountered more often.



9...Be7 10.f3 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 b5  
11...e5!? 12.Be3 Be6 is also reasonable,  
see *Informant* 58/235.

12.Kb1 Rb8

A questionable move. Better was  
12...Bb7 13.g4 Qc7 14.Qf2 b4 15.Na4 c5  
16.Be3 d5!? 17.Nb6 dxc4 18.Nxa8 Bxa8  
with nice compensation for the Ex-  
change, Dolmatov-Tukmakov, Rostov-  
on-Don 1993.

13.Qe3

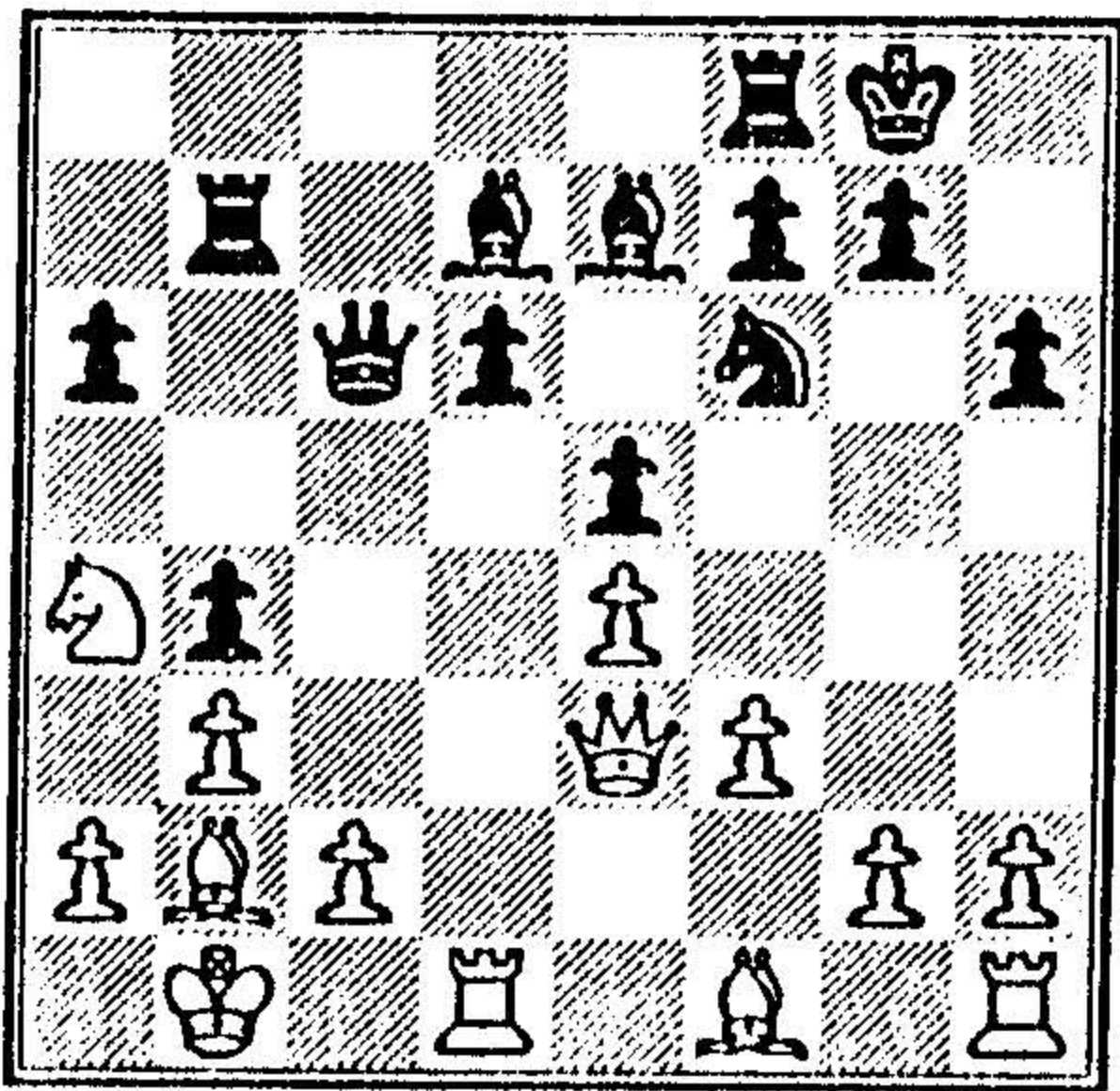
13.Qf2!?; 13.g4 b4 14.Ne2 c5 15.Be3  
Be6 with the idea 16...d5.

13...b4 14.Na4 Qc7 15.Ba7! Rb7 16.Bb6  
Qc6 17.b3 O-O 18.Bd4

18.Bxa6? fails to 18...Rxb6 19.Bxc8  
Rb8!

18...e5 19.Bb2 Bd7

Hunting the Knight on a4 is Black's  
best chance.



20.h4!

The attractive 20.Be4 could be met by  
20...Be6! and Black is slightly better.

20...Qc7 21.g4!

Anand ignores the "terrible" threat  
21...Bxa4, as White's attack is more effec-  
tive.

21...Bxa4 22.bxa4 Nd7

Preventing 23.g5 by allowing the  
reply ...h5. Relatively better was  
22...a5, but 23.Ba6! Rbb8 24.Qd3 and  
25.Be4 is still a little better for White.  
Not so strong is 23.g5 because of  
23...Nh5!

23.Bxa6 Ra7 24.Be4! Nb6 25.Bb3 Qc5

25...Nxa4 26.g5 and White is clearly  
better.

26.Qe1 Nxa4 27.Rd5! Ne3+ 28.Bxc3  
Qxc3 29.Qe2!

And Anand won by a crushing attack,  
as White's Bishop is much stronger than  
its counterpart. A very interesting  
strategical opening battle.

## Chelyabinsk B33

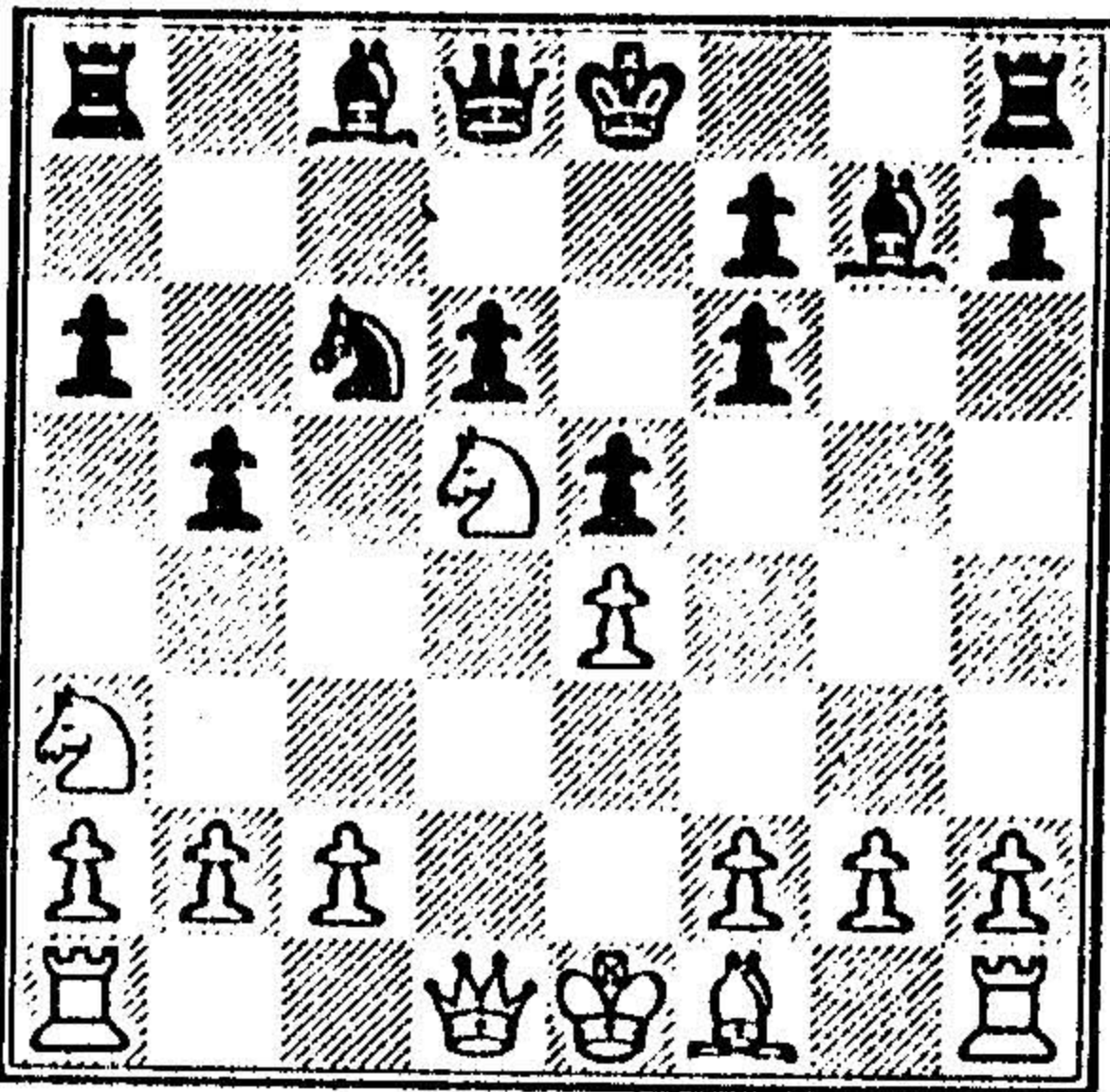
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6  
7.Bg5

Sometimes this position appears after  
5...e6 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5.

7...a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6

White is better after 9...Qxf6? 10.Nd5  
Qd8 11.c4!

10.Nd5 Bg7



11.Bd3

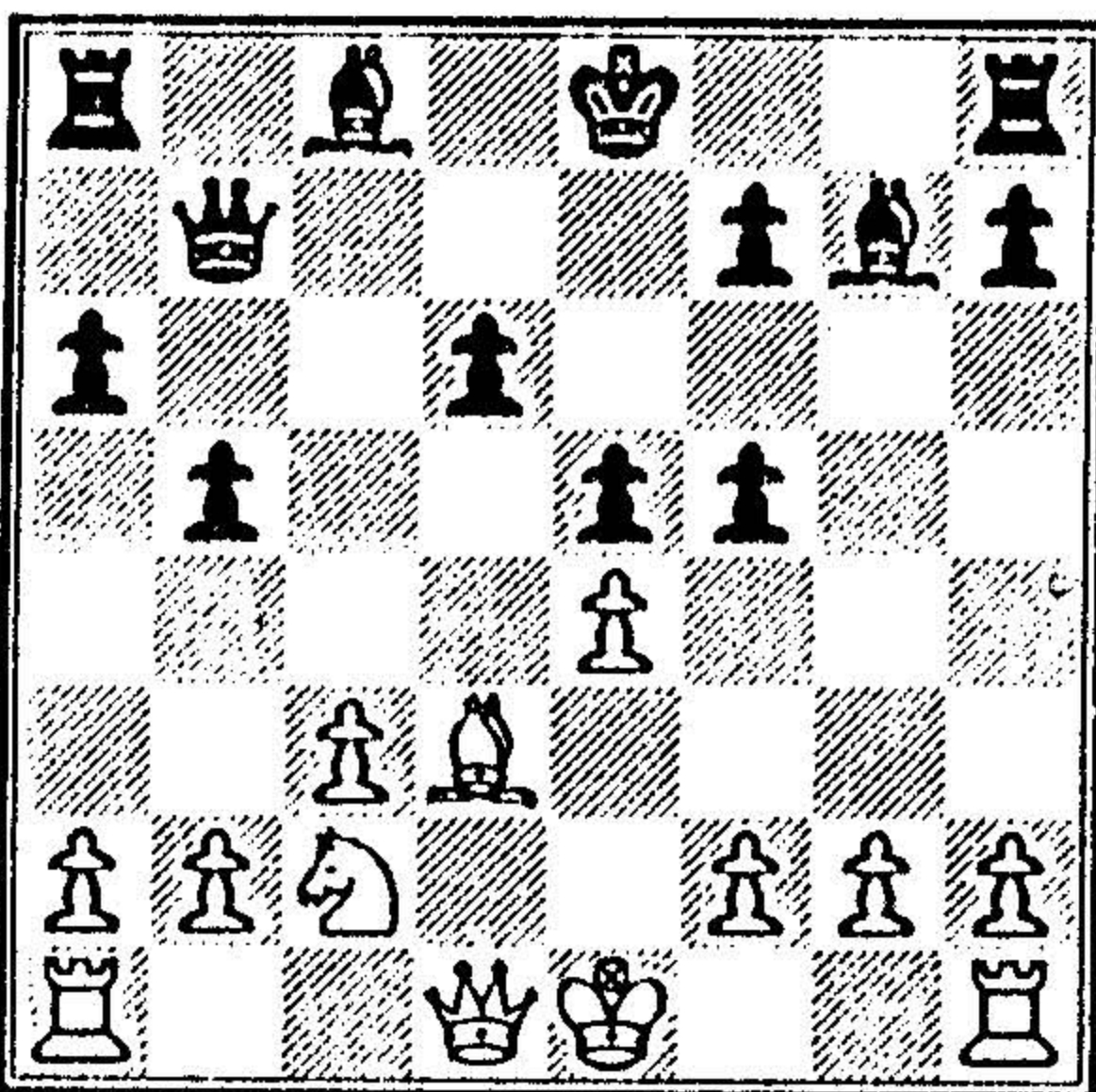
The most popular line, although 11.c3  
f5 12.exf5 Bxf5 13.Ne2 O-O 14.Ncc3 Be6  
15.g3 seems better to me. Adams-Salov,  
Dortmund 1992, continued 15...Nc7  
16.Bg2 Rb8 17.O-O Nxd5 18.Bxd5 Kh8  
and now 19.Qh5 deserves attention in-  
stead of 19.a4 Bh6!

## Dolmatov-Topalov (Round 8)

11...Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7 13.c3

A playable alternative is 13.c4!? For  
instance, 13...f5 14.O-O-O O-O 15.Qh5  
with an attack, Short-Illescas, Linares  
1992, *Informant* 54/171.

13...f5 14.Ne2 Qb7!?



A theoretical novelty. If 14...Bb7  
15.exf5 Qg5 16.Nc3 d5 17.O-O h5 18.Qe2!  
O-O 13.f6! Bxf6 14.Nf5 (*Informant*

54/171).

15.Qf3 O-O 16.Ne3 f4 17.Nd5 Be6

With the idea 18...f5.

18.g4!

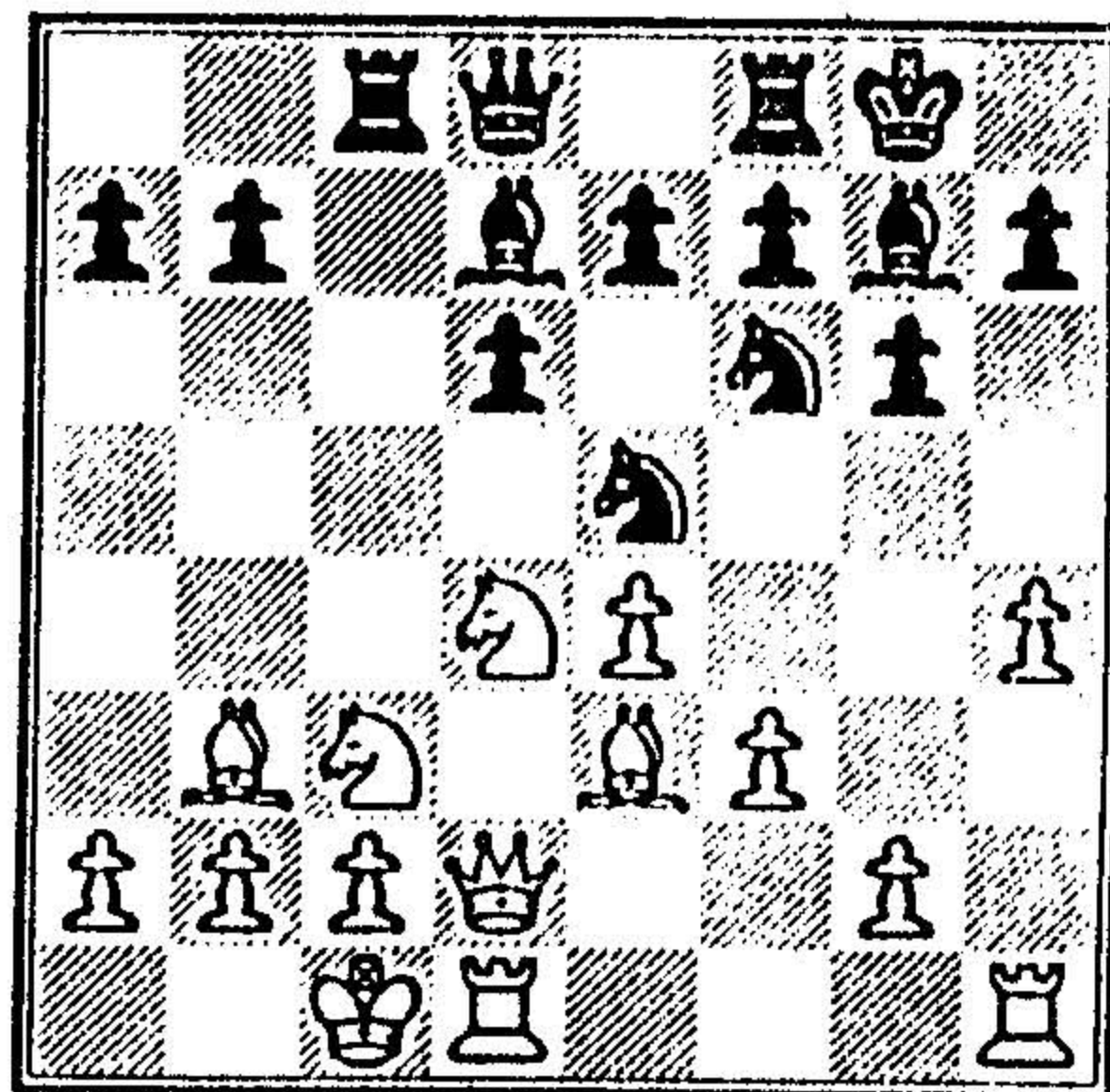
Chances are roughly equal; the game  
was drawn on move 33.

To be complete, we have to include an  
important game between Kasparov and  
Salov from Linares 1992 (*Informant*  
54/175): 10...f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.Qh5 Rg8  
13.g3 Rc8 (given an ?! by Kasparov; likely  
he preferred 13...Nd4!?) 14.c3 Rg6  
15.Ne2 (novelty) 15...Rh6 16.Qe2 Bxd5  
17.exd5 Ne7 18.f3 Bg7 19.Nc3!? (19.O-  
O!? Qd7 20.Ne3 is more promising for  
White in my opinion) 19...f4 20.gxf4 Ng6!  
with good counterplay.

The most controversial Sicilian system  
is the ...

## Dragon B78

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6  
7.Be4 O-O 8.Bb3 d6 9.f3 Bd7  
10.Qd2 Rc8 11.O-O-O Ne5 12.h4

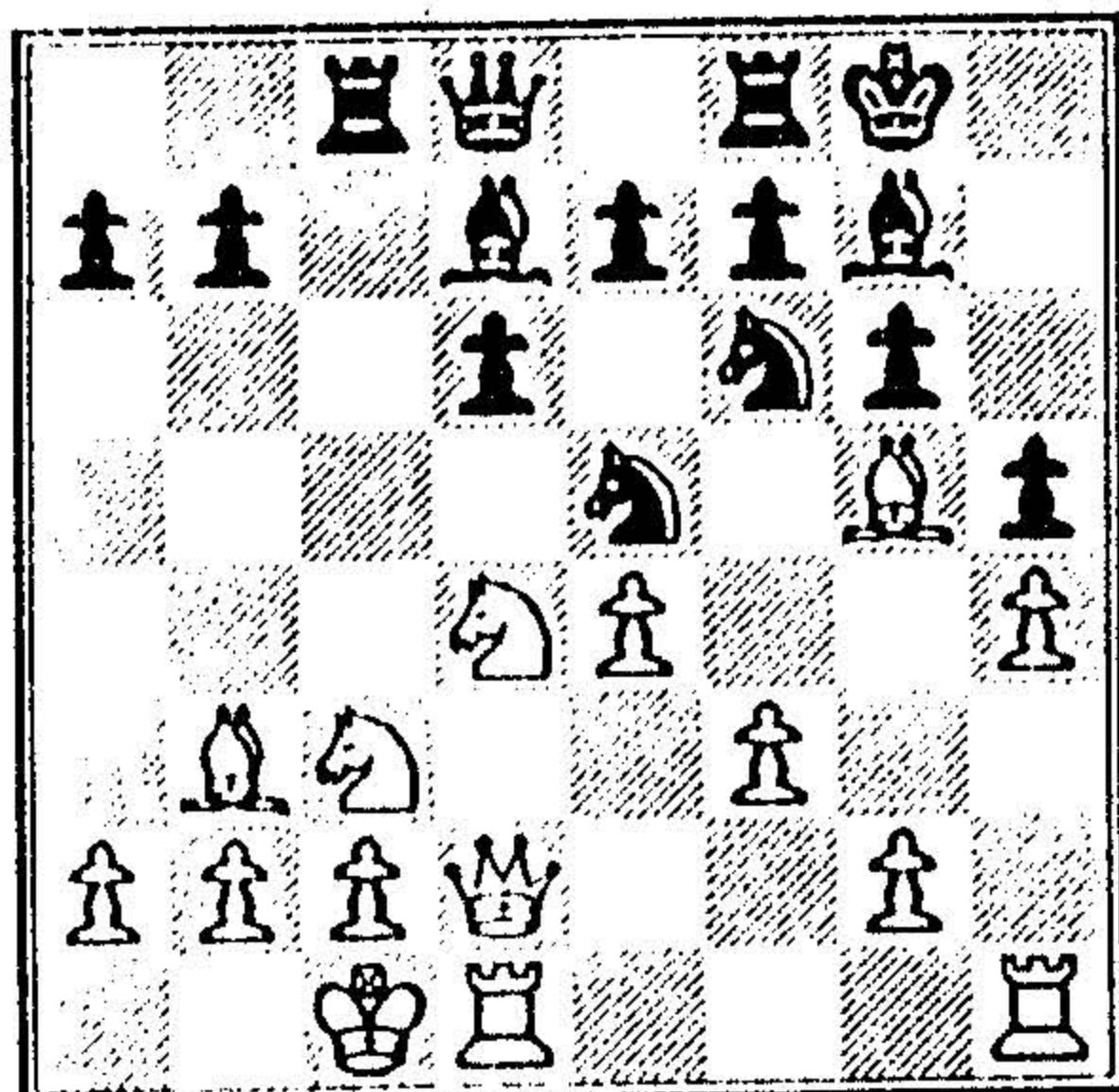


The critical position has arisen. At  
present, the most popular move is 12...h5,  
preventing the methodical threat 13.h5.  
But the great Dragon specialist GM  
Sosonko played 12...Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4  
14.g4 Qc7 15.h5 Rc8 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.Kb1  
b5 with sufficient counterplay against  
Piket in the 1992 Dutch Championship.  
More consistent, of course, was 14.h5.  
Here is a nice example: (Nadanian-  
Yegiasarian, Armenia 1992 - *Informant*  
56/233) 14...Nxh5 15.g4 Nf6 16.Nde2! Rc8  
17.Bd4 Qa5 18.g5 Nh5 (18...Rxd4!?)  
19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Nf4! Nxf4 21.Qxf4 Be6  
22.Rxh7+ with a crucial attack.

## Yudasin-Tiviakov (Round 4)



12...h5! 13.Bg5



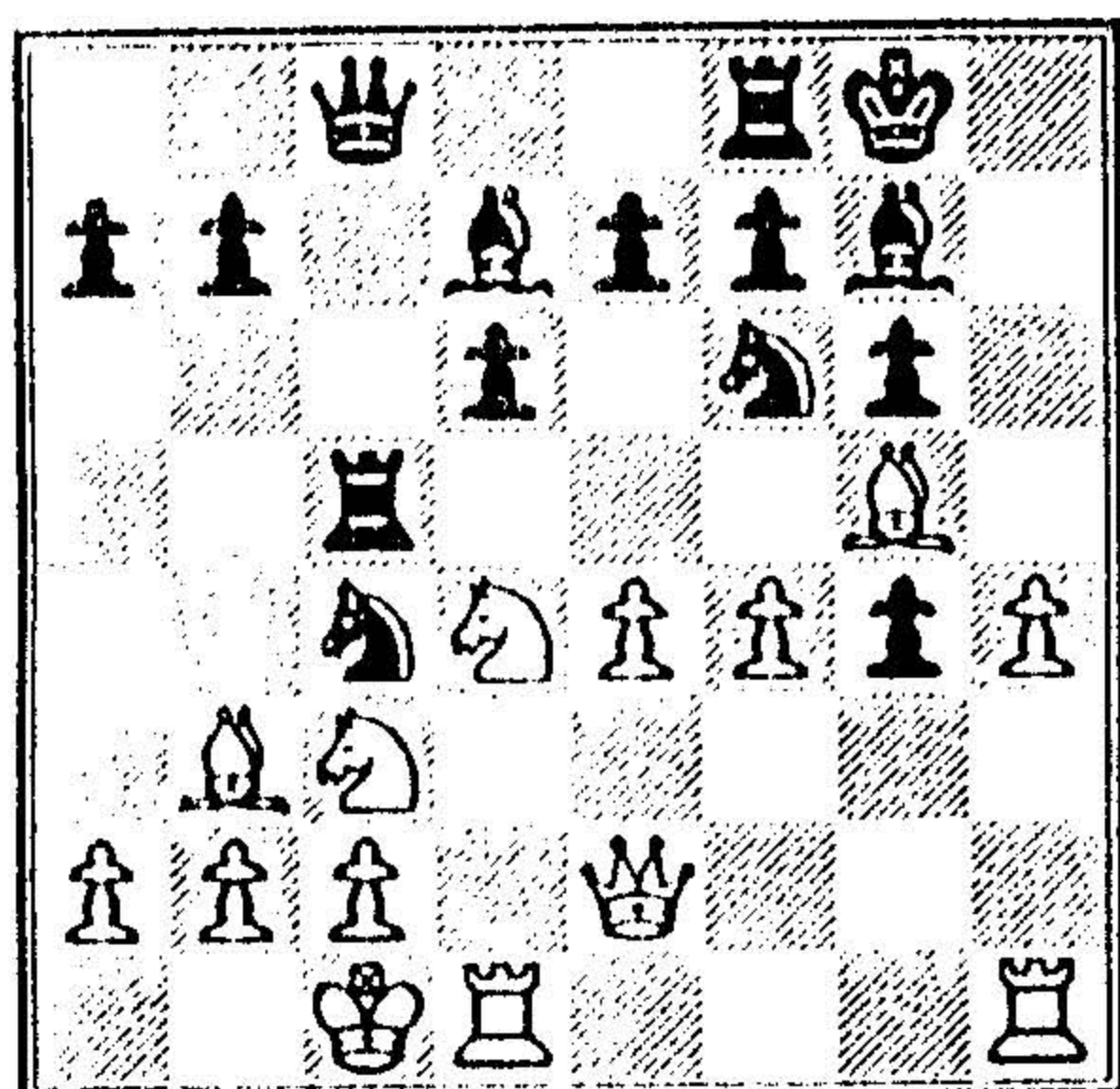
13.Bh6!? is a reasonable alternative leading to great and unclear complications after 13...Bxh6!? 14.Qxh6 Rxc3!? (ECO B78/12). But much safer and strong enough is 13...a5!? (novelty) from Gruenfeld-Alterman, Israel 1993 (*Informant* 56/233), which went: 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.a4 Rc5 16.Ndb5 Qb6, unclear.

The positional maneuver 13.Kb1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 Rxc4 15.Ndc2 [Wolff-Kir, Georgiev, Biel (izt) 1993] is also very interesting, but after 15...Kh7!, instead of 15...b5 16.Bh6, Black is all right.

13...Rc5

A very typical Dragon *tabia* has appeared here. White has a difficult choice between 14.f4 and the supersharp 14.g4. Yudasin chose the latter. As to 14.f4 Nc4 15.Qd3, the theoretical 15...b5 is still unclear (see B78/14), while 15...Ng4!? 16.Bxc4 Nf2 17.Qe2 Nxb1 18.Bb3 (Klovans-Tiviakov, Groningen Open 1991) is apparently in White's favor, but fraught with danger.

14.g4!? h4xg4 15.f4 Nc4 16.Qe2 Qc8!?



Theorists have so far considered only 16...b5, allowing the strong break 17.f5! See Gofstein-Mestel, Hastings 1991: 17...Qa5 18.fxg6 Nxb2 19.gxf7+ Rxf7 20.Kxb2 Qxc3+ 21.Kb1 d5? (21...Re5!?) 22.Rxf6 and White is better. Tiviakov

came up with an interesting innovation, the main idea of which was to protect both the Knight on e4 and the strategically important f5-square.

17.f5!?

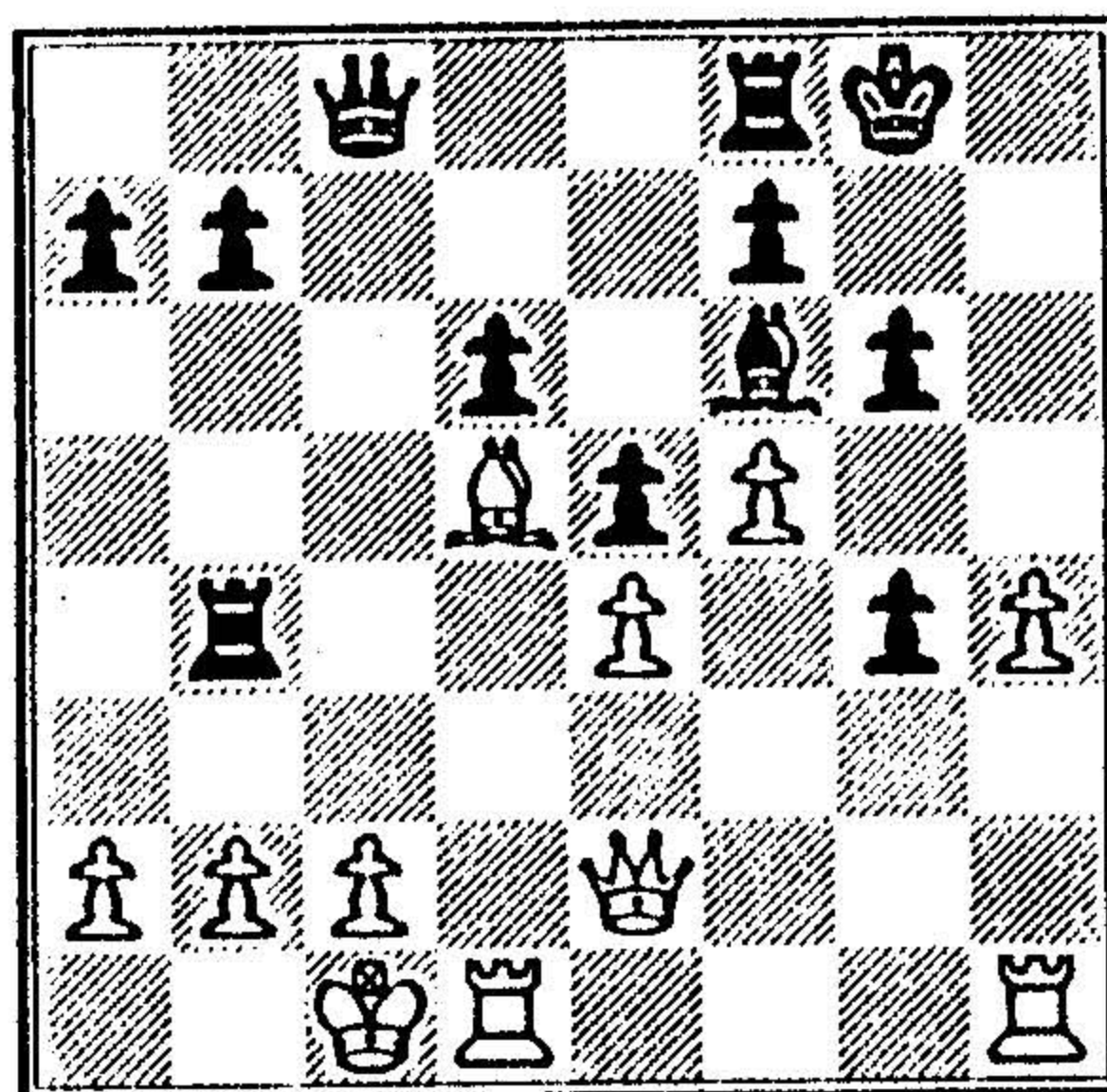
The most principled. For 17.Bxf6 Bxf6 see Tiviakov's comments in *Inside Chess* 7:2:5. In my opinion, Black is all right.

17...e5!

The point of Black's plan. Black is obviously better after 18.fxc6 fxc6 19.Rhg1 Kh7! (Tiviakov) as well as after 18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd5 Rxd5! 20.exd5 Nxb2! 18.Ndb5! Bxb5 19.Nxb5 Rxb5 20.Bxf6

If 20.Bxc4 Rb4 21.Bd3 d5!, Black is better.

20...Bxf6 21.Bxc4 Rb4! 22.Bd5!



Keeping the powerful Bishop. If 22.b3, b5 23.a3 Rxc4! with good compensation for the Exchange (Tiviakov).

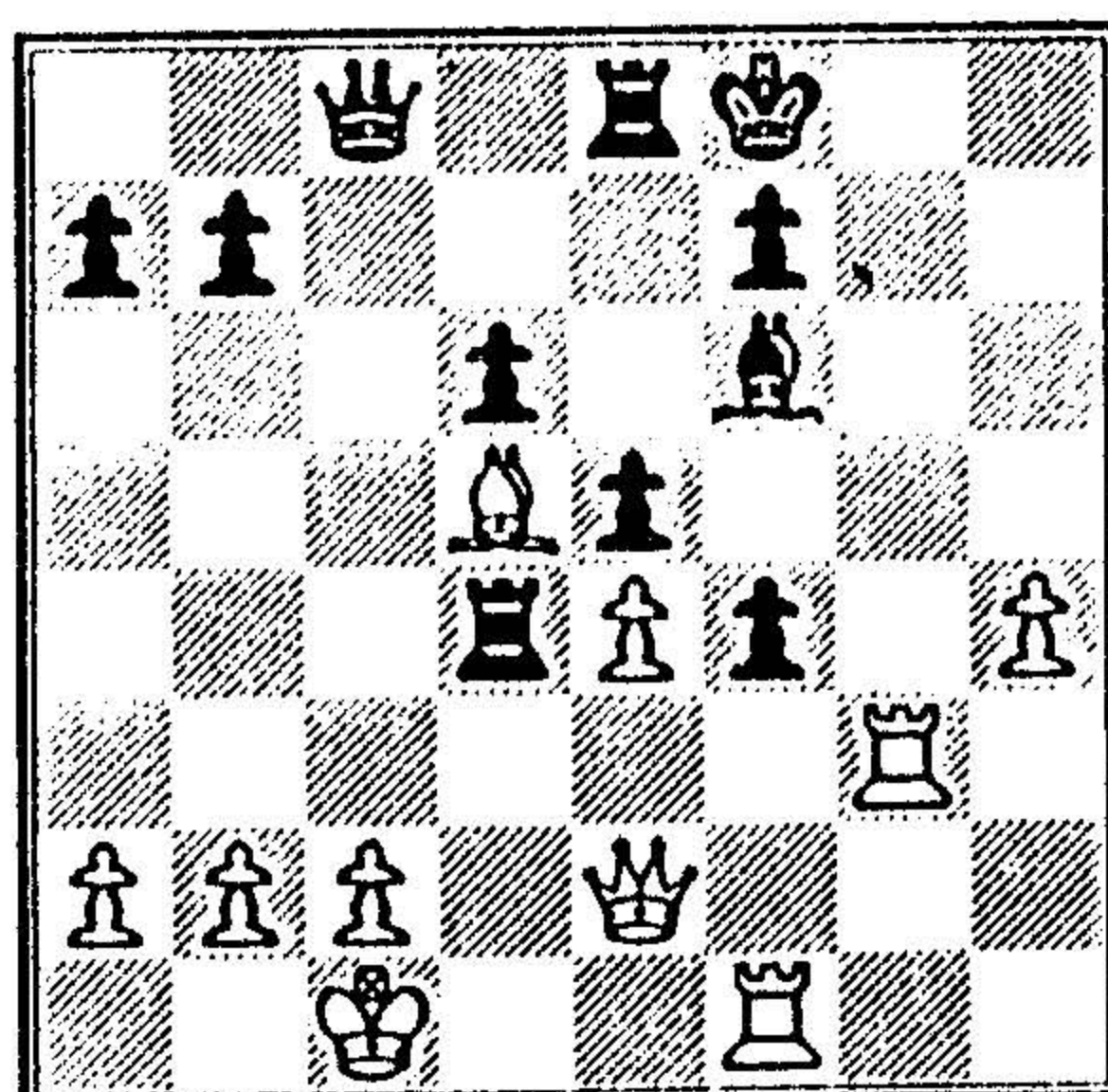
22...gxf5 23.Rdf1 f4 24.Rhg1 Re8

Winning is 24...g3?? 25.Rxg3+ fxg3 26.Rxf6 Kg7 27.Rf5.

25.Rxg4+ Kf8 26.Rg3!

Making the Rook more active. Weaker is 26.c3 Rd4 27.Kb1, since 27...Rd2! 28.Qxd2 Qxg4 is better for Black; so is Tiviakov's 26.h5 Kc7 27.h6.

26...Rd4



27.Rd3?

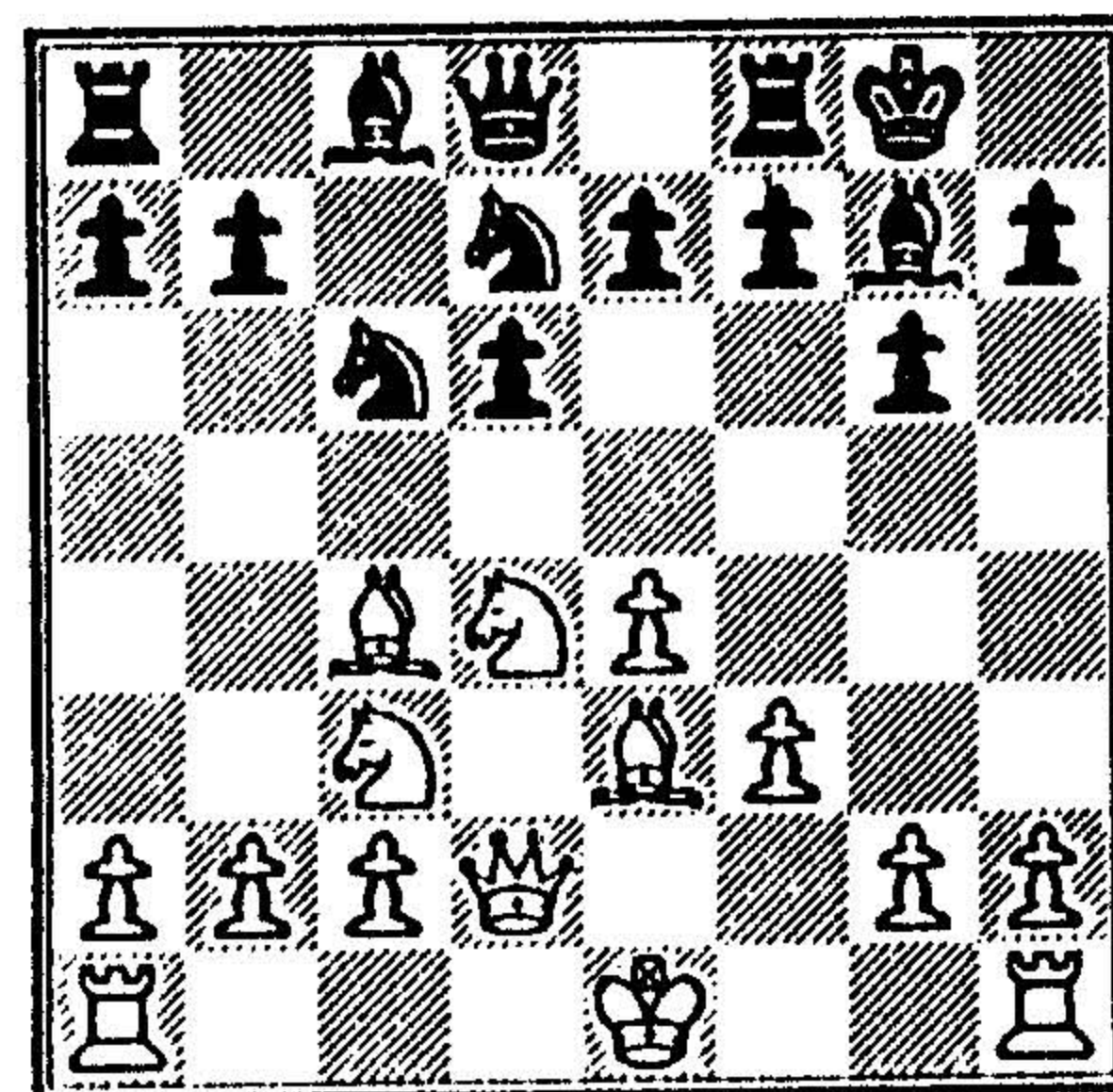
The unattractive lunge 27.Qh5 is met by 27...Rxd5! 28.exd5 Qc4! (not 28...fxg3?

29.Rxf6). But 27.Rc3! Qd7 28.Qh5 Rxd5 29.exd5 e4 30.Rxf4 or 29...Qb5 30.Rd1 is not so clear. The opening phase has finished. After the text move Black seized the initiative and won with the help of his opponent.

27...Rxd3 28.Qxd3 Bxh4

## Dragon B77

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 O-O 9.Bc4 Nd7!?



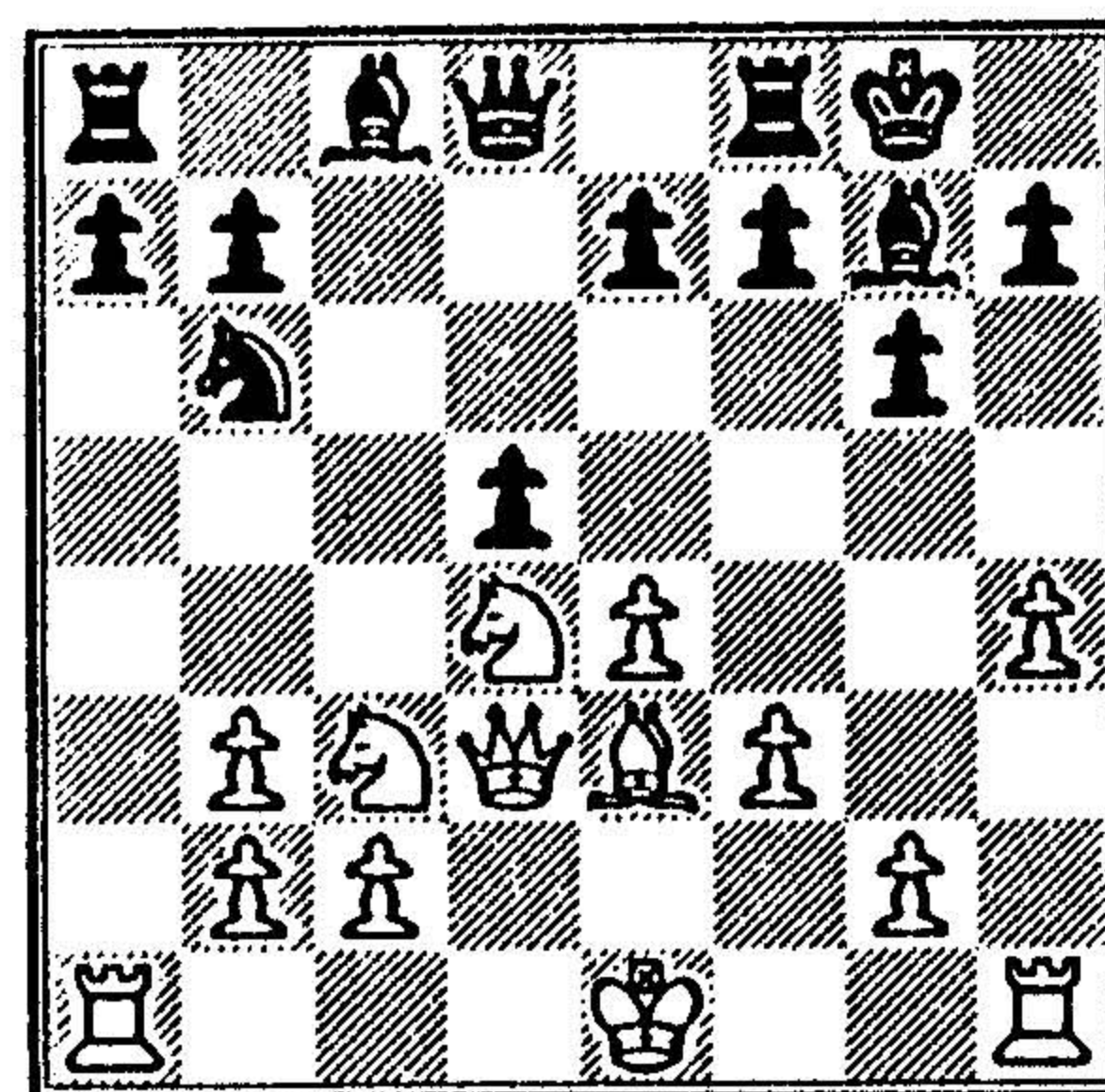
This irregular move with the idea of a cavalry attack on the queenside is sometimes met in practice. White has the choice between 10.h4 and 10.O-O-O. He should be careful in the latter case: 10.O-O-O Nb6 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bh6?? Nbc4 13.Qg5 e5 14.Ndc2 Bf6 15.Qg3 Bh4!, winning, Fuchs-Honfi, 1962. Correct, according to ECO, is 12.Qd3 followed by 12...Bd7 13.h4 Rc8; 10.h4, starting a kingside attack right away, looks reasonable.

Nijboer-Kir, Georgiev (Round 7)

10.h4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Qd3

12.O-O-O Nbc4 13.Qe2 Nxe3+ 14.Qxe3 Nxb3+ 15.axb3 and the fight of 2Bs vs. 2Ns doesn't promise White much.

12...Nxb3 13.axb3 d5!





The classic counterblow, but theory disapproves of it here, since 14.Ndb5 Be6 15.O-O-O Qc8 16.exd5 Rd8 17.d6 is a little better for White. However, Sosonko improved this line with a deep positional pawn sacrifice: 14...a6! 15.Bxb6 Qxb6 16.Nxd5 Qd8 17.Nbc3 b5! 18.O-O-O (18.Nxb5! Bxb2 19.Ra2 Be5) 18...c6 19.Nb4 Qa5 with good compensation for the pawn (Santo-Roman-Sosonko, Cannes 1992).

14.Nde2!?

ECO B77/10.76 had suggested this as a possible alternative. The is the first game to put it to a test.

14...Be6 15.O-O-O

15.Bxb6 Qxb6 16.exd5 Bf5, unclear.

15...dxe4 16.Qxe4 Qc7 17.h5

17.Nb5 Qe5.

17...Qe5! 18.Qxe5 Bxe5 19.Nf4 Bxf4 20.Bxf4 Rac8

The game is equal. The system with 9...Nd7 is still alive, but it needs reexamination.

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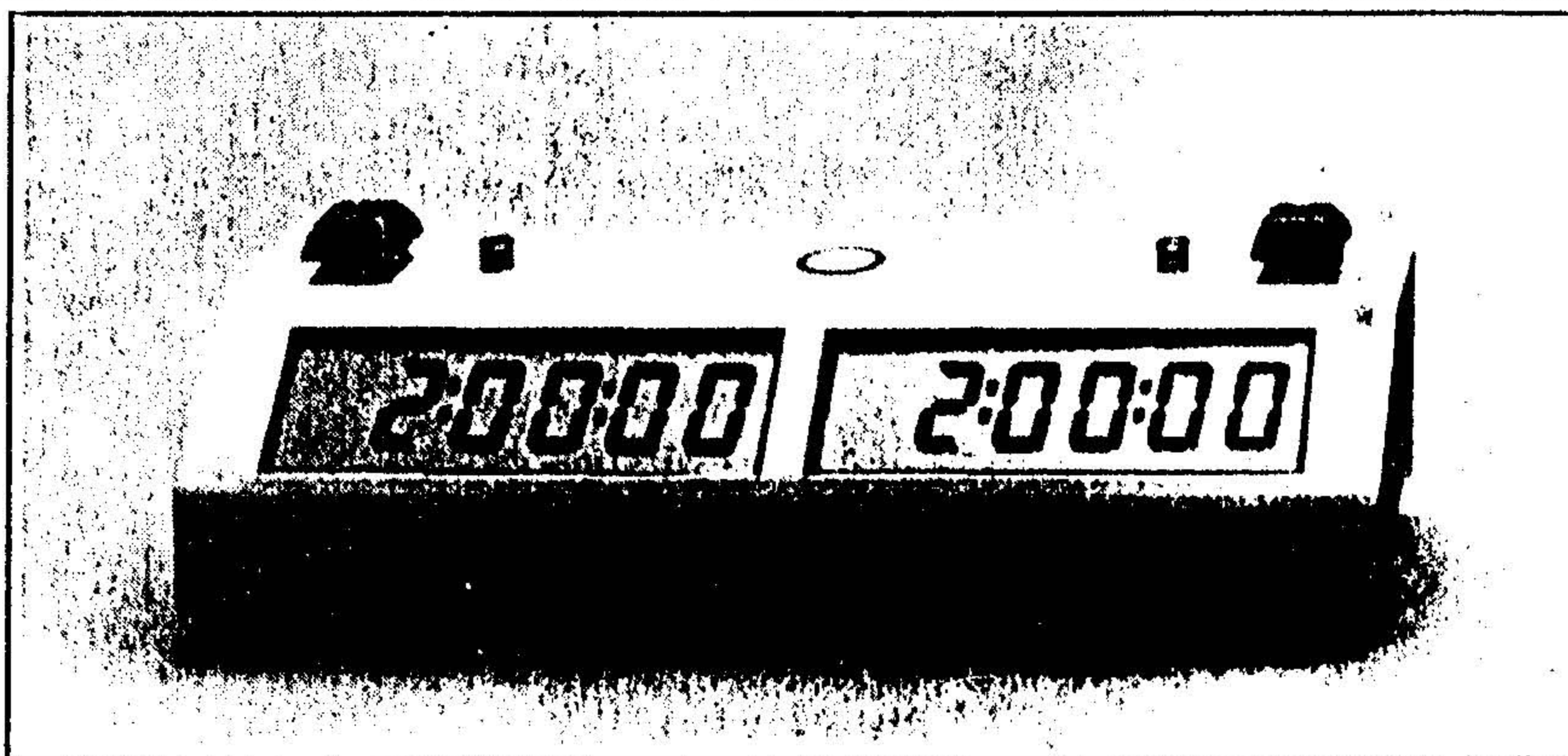
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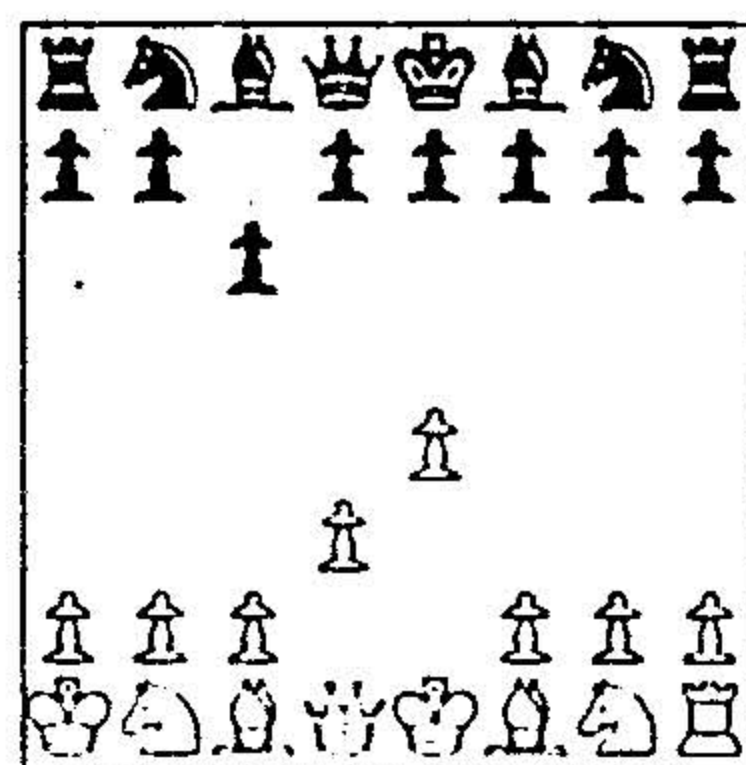


# OPENING THEORY

We can either follow fashion — or help create it. Here GM RAYMOND KEENE offers you the chance to resurrect a deceptive weapon against the Caro-Kann defence.

## Caro-Kann with 2 d3

Many White players feel that the open main lines of the Caro-Kann offer Black too much scope for a free and easy development, and also too many choices of system. For example after 1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 dxc6 dxc6 4 dxc4 it is Black who can choose between 4... d7, 4... f6 and 4... f5... and White has to be ready for all of them. This helps explain a recent trend towards less explored and more forcing variations. Lately, England's Nigel Short has been successful with his own version of the advance variation (1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 f5 4 d3), and another line in the same vein is 1 e4 c6 2 d3.



This restrained second move allows White a number of set-ups and, paradoxically, White can often advance late on with d3-d4 and open up the game to his advantage. Consequently 2 d3 is not as innocuous as it might appear at first sight, and is a particular favourite of the flamboyant Yugoslav Grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojević. The late Leonid Stein also won some beautiful attacking games with it. While your opponents turn to studying the ultra-fashionable advance variation, à la Short, you will be a pioneer of the revival of 2 d3 with all the attendant advantages of surprise.

We start our illustrative games with a

classic miniature by the Latvian former World Champion Mikhail Tal.

□ Tal *Game 1*  
■ Smyslov Candidates 1959  
1 e4 c6 2 d3 d5

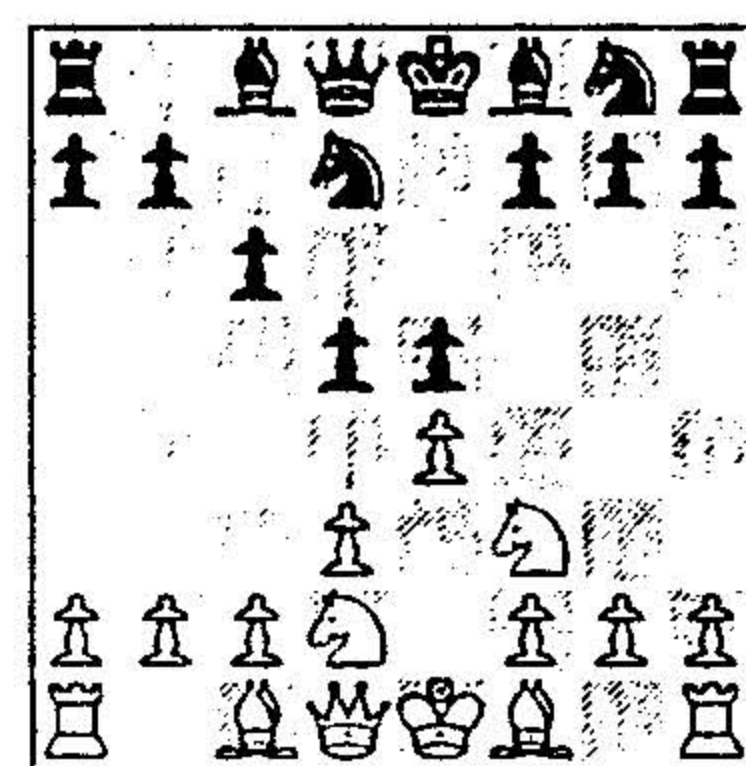
The most logical reply. For 2... e5 see game 5, and for lines with g6 see games 4 and 6.

3 d2 e5

This straightforward defence stakes a claim in the centre.

4 g3 d7

4... d6 5 e2 (5 g3 or 5 e2 would lead to more standard positions) e7 6 d4 exd4 7 exd5 cxd5 8 dxd4 was Anand-Karpov, Brussels 1991.



5 d4

This tempo sacrifice is justified due to the passive placing of Black's queen's knight, no longer able to develop at c6.

Another possibility, favoured by Ljubojević, is 5 e2, e.g. 5... d7 6 0-0 d6 7 c3 (to deploy the queen on c2 plus preparing Q-side expansion with b4) 7... 0-0 8 e1 9 f1 (this bishop retreat puts pressure on the e5-pawn) a5 10 g3 a4 11 f2 b5 12 d4 h6 13 exd5 dxd5 14 c4 with an edge for White, Ljubojević-Seirawan, Niksic 1983. Black's Q-side will be broken up, as 14... b4 15 c3 exd4

16 exd8+ xxe8 17 dxd4 intending a3 is unpleasant for Black, due to the weakness at c6.

5... dxe4 6 dxe4 exd4 7 dxd4 d7 8 g5 e7 9 0-0-0 0-0 10 d6

White has free play for his pieces and is in complete possession of the central files. His knight at d6 dominates the board and it is quite natural that Tal turns his attention towards a sacrificial solution.

10... a5 11 c4 b5 12 d2 a6 13 d5 d8 14 h4!

Instead, Tal decides to take Black's king's fortress by storm, whatever the cost in material.

14... bxc4 15 g5 h5

Returning the piece in order to alleviate the attack. 15... d8 16 d8 e7 17 a5 clearly favours White, due to his sounder pawns in the endgame but the most intricate defence to White's brutal threat of xg7 mate is 15... g6. In that case, however, White would play 16 h6+ g7 17 c3 xa2 18 h4 a1+ 19 d2 a6 20 d4f5+ h8 21 d6 g7 22 fe1 c5 23 hf5+ g8 24 h6 gxh5 25 g5+ h8 26 dxf5 g8 27 e8 and wins.

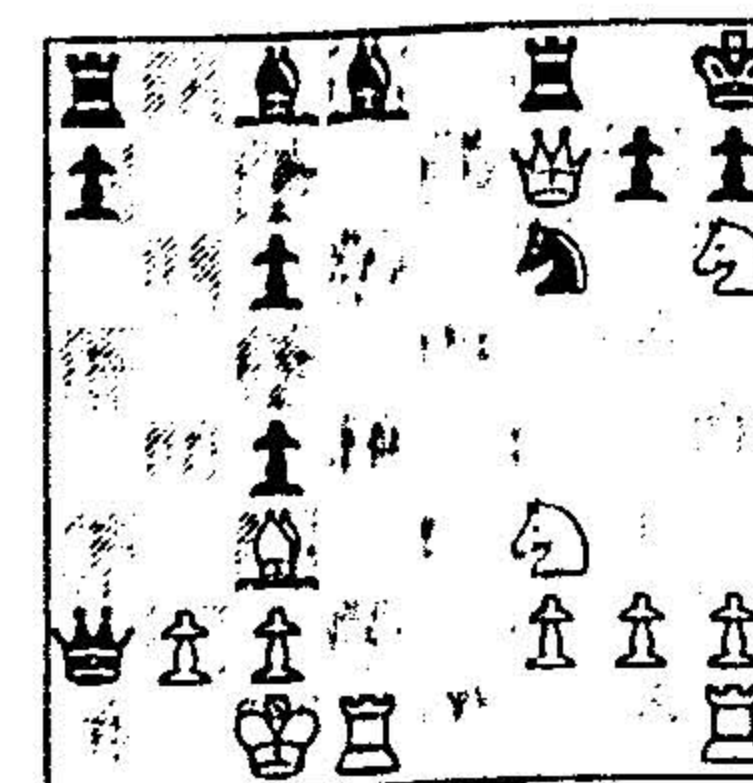
16 h6+ h8 17 xh5 xa2

If 17... gxh6 18 c3+ f6 19 xh6 g8 20 g5 with a fierce attack.

18 c3 d6

Smyslov cracks under the pressure. He had to play 18... f6.

19 x7



A beautiful move which immediately terminates the game. If 19... x7 20

xd8+ followed by checkmate or 19... e8 20 g8+ and however Black captures 21 d7 is smothered mate.

19... a1+ 20 d2 x7 21 d7+ g8 22 xa1 x7 23 e5+ e6 24 dxc6 e4+ 25 e3 b6+ 26 d4 1-0.

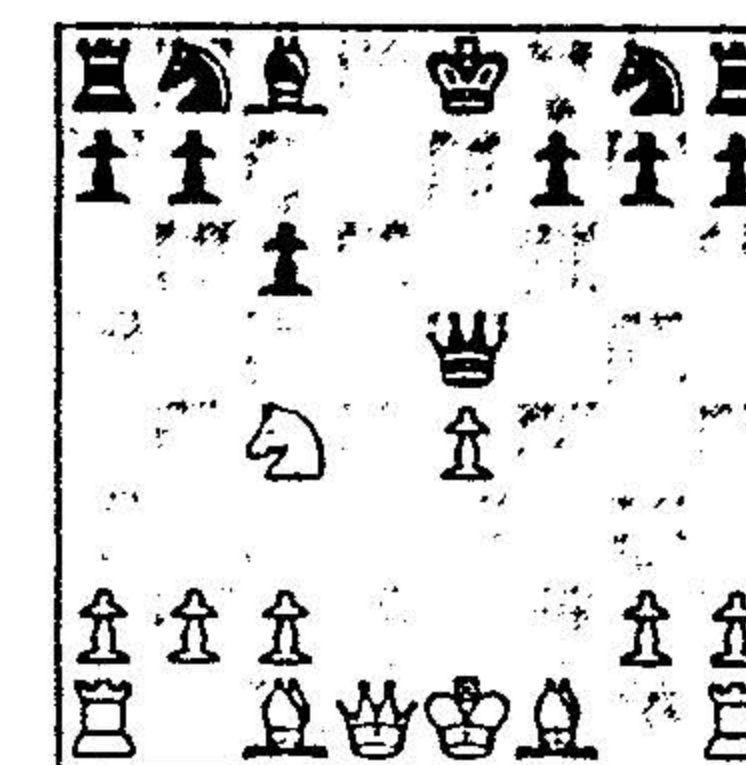
This game with its brilliant violence was the one which initially drew attention to the potential of 2 d3 against the Caro-Kann.

20 years ago the Yugoslav GM Marović thought that he had found a way to equalise for Black but when he tried it against Bobby Fischer the champion-to-be refuted it with the double move of his d-pawn, similar to the Tal-Smyslov game.



□ Fischer *Game 2*  
■ Marović Rovinj-Zagreb 1970  
1 e4 c6 2 d3 d5 3 d2 d7

Instead 3... dxe4 4 dxe4 e5 5 g3 c5 is given in many reference books as an easy way to equalise. The idea is supposed to be 6 dxc5 d12+. Everyone seems to have overlooked the powerful possibility of 7 x12 d4+ 8 e1 xe5 9 d4!



analysis diagram

White has lost the right to castle, and is sacrificing the pawn on e4. However, the terrible knight check on d6, and the white bishops on an open board, are very dangerous for Black. After 9... xe4+ 10 e2 e6 (10... xg2 11 d6+ f8



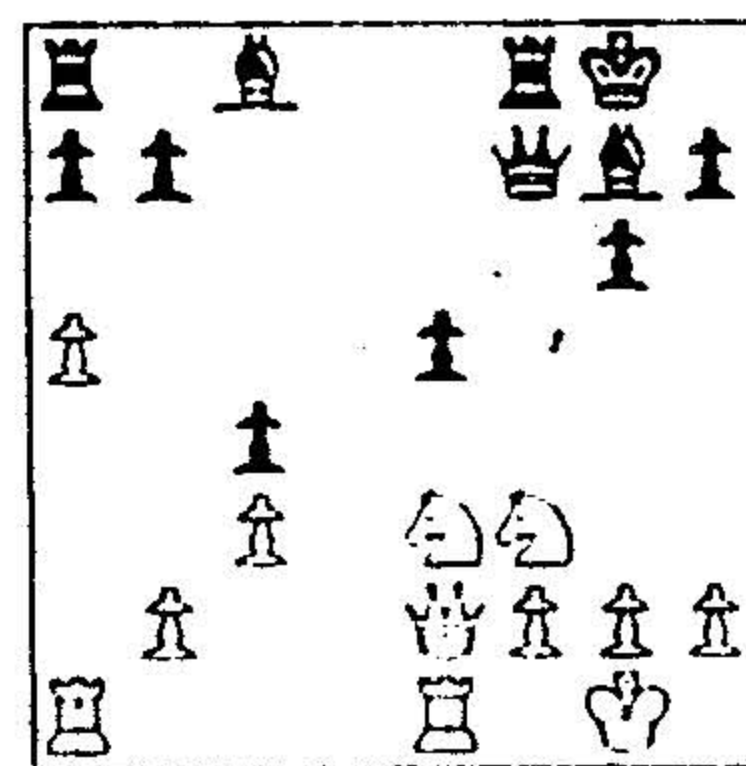
12 ♖f1 ♕e6 13 ♜xg7!! ♜xg7 14 ♜d8 mate) 11 ♜d6+ ♜c7 12 ♜xc8+ ♜xc8 13 ♜d4 White has unpleasant threats such as ♜c5+, ♜xg7 and ♜f4. 4 ♜g3 ♜c7 5 exd5 cxd5 6 d4

Fischer's idea is to transpose into the Exchange Variation where Black's ♜d7 is misplaced.

6... g6 7 ♜d3 ♜g7 8 0-0 e6 9 ♖e1 ♜e7 10 ♜f1 ♜c6 11 c3 0-0 12 ♜g5 e5

Marović attempts to break out in the centre but this advance leaves him with an isolated d-pawn.

13 ♜c3 ♜b6 14 dxe5 ♜xe5 15 ♜f4 f6 16 a4 ♜f7 17 a5 ♜bc4 18 ♜xc4 dxc4 19 ♜xe5 fxe5 20 ♜e2



White now wins material as the black pawns on c4 and e5 cannot be defended, e.g. 20... ♜c6 21 ♜g5.

20... h6 21 ♜xc4 ♜g4 22 ♜xc5! ♜xe5 23 ♜xe5 ♜xe2 24 ♜xg7 ♜xg7 25 ♜xc2 ♜d8 26 ♜ae1 ♜d5 27 b4 ♜c7 28 ♜c3 ♜f7 29 h4 ♜d2 30 ♜f3+ ♜g7 31 ♜c6 ♜f7 32 ♜xg7+ ♜xg7 33 ♜e5 ♜d1+ 34 ♜h2 h6 35 axb6 axb6 36 f3 ♜d3 37 ♜b5 ♜xc3 38 ♜xb6 h5 39 ♜b7+ ♜f6 40 b5 ♜b3 41 b6 ♜b4 42 ♜g3 ♜b2 43 ♜b8 ♜g7 44 f4 ♜b3+ 45 ♜f2 ♜f6 46 ♜c2 ♜g7

46... ♜f5 47 b7 ♜g4 48 f5! exposes the king to check.

47 ♜d2 ♜g3 48 ♜c8 1-0.

A better way of implementing Marović's plan is to play 3... ♜c7, which I introduced in a game from 1979.



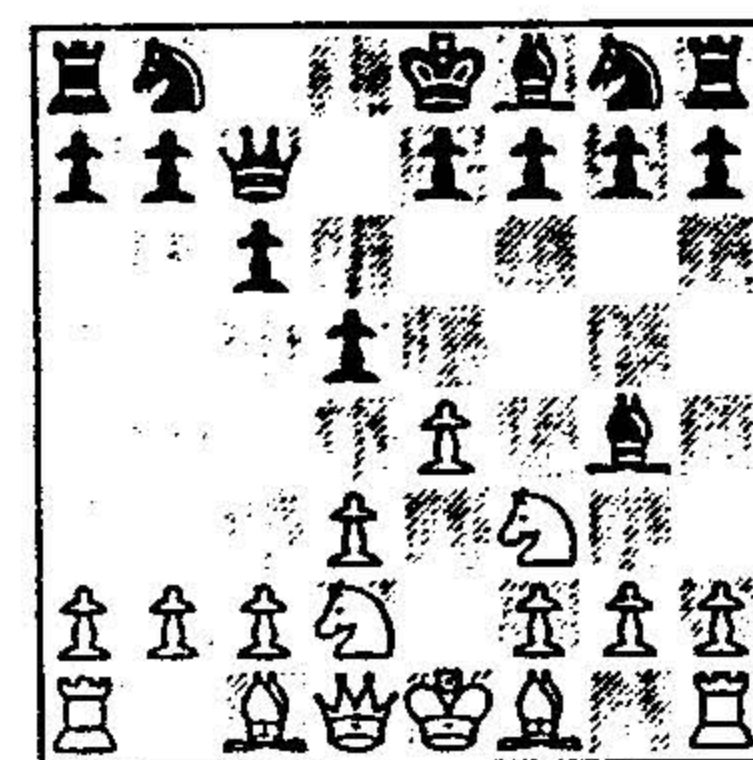
□ Kristiansen

■ Miles

1 e4 c6 2 d3 d5 3 ♜d2 ♜c7 4 ♜g3 ♜g4

Game 3

Esbjerg 1984



The subtle point of Black's play is that he avoids the treatment of Fischer against Marović, where the Black queen's bishop was blocked in.

5 c3

5 h3 ♜h5 6 c3 e6 7 ♜e2 ♜f6 8 0-0 ♜e7 9 ♜e1 0-0 10 exd5 cxd5 11 d4 ♜c6 12 ♜d3 ♜ab8 13 ♜e2 ♜d6 14 g4 ♜g6 15 ♜xg6 hxcg6 16 ♜e5 b5 Manin-Keene, Sydney 1979. Black has a slight initiative and it is clear that the position, with colours reversed, has transposed into a QGD Exchange Variation.

5... e6 6 ♜a4 ♜h5 7 ♜e2 ♜f6 8 exd5?! ♜xd5 9 ♜e4 ♜e7 10 h4?

This is artificial. White should continue with his development.

10... ♜d7 11 ♜d2 e5 12 0-0 0-0 ♜f13 ♜de1 ♜ad8 14 ♜c2 ♜fe8 15 ♜g3 ♜g4 16 ♜g5 ♜xe2 17 ♜xe2 h6 18 ♜5e4 ♜f4 19 ♜xf4 exf4 20 ♜f5 ♜f8 21 ♜he1 f3 22 gxf3 ♜f4+ 23 ♜e3 ♜e5 24 ♜d1 ♜xf3 25 ♜g3 ♜g6 26 d4 ♜xh4 27 ♜g1 ♜d6 28 ♜g1 ♜e6 29 ♜d2 ♜de8 30 ♜b1 f5 31 ♜b3 f4 32 ♜g4 ♜h8 33 ♜h2 ♜e1+ 34 ♜d1 ♜xd1+ 35 ♜xd1 ♜xd1+ 36 ♜xd1 ♜e2 37 d5 c5 38 ♜h1 h5 39 ♜f1 hxcg4 40 ♜xh4+ ♜g8 41 ♜h2 g3 42 fxcg3 0-1.

In my opinion 3... ♜c7 is the best reply to the d3 Caro-Kann and there is plenty of scope here for new ideas on both sides.

Black players frequently fianchetto their king's bishop in this variation. When they do so White's correct strategy is to attack on the Q-side with the key move b4.



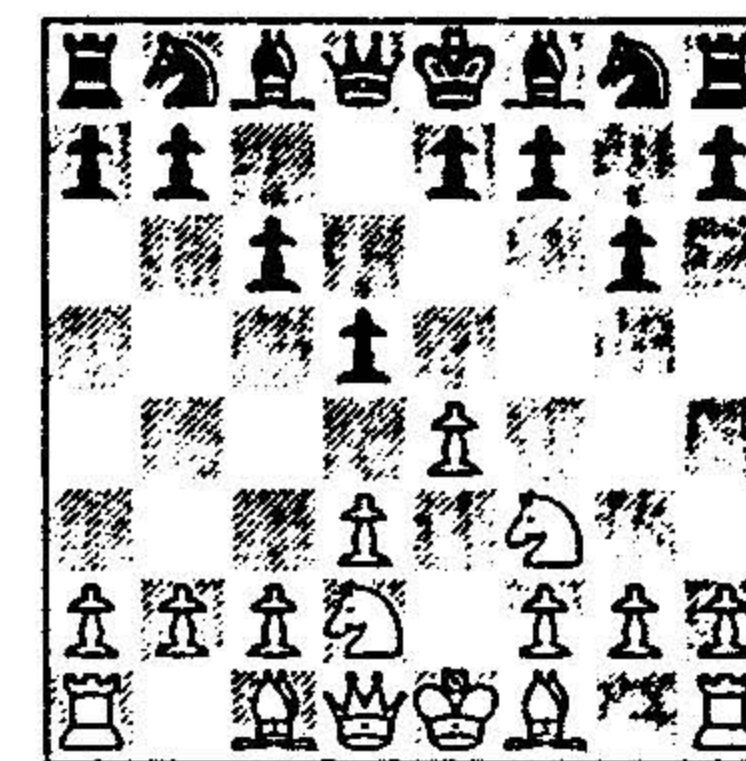
□ Ljubojević

■ Hübner

Game 4

Lucerne Olympiad 1982

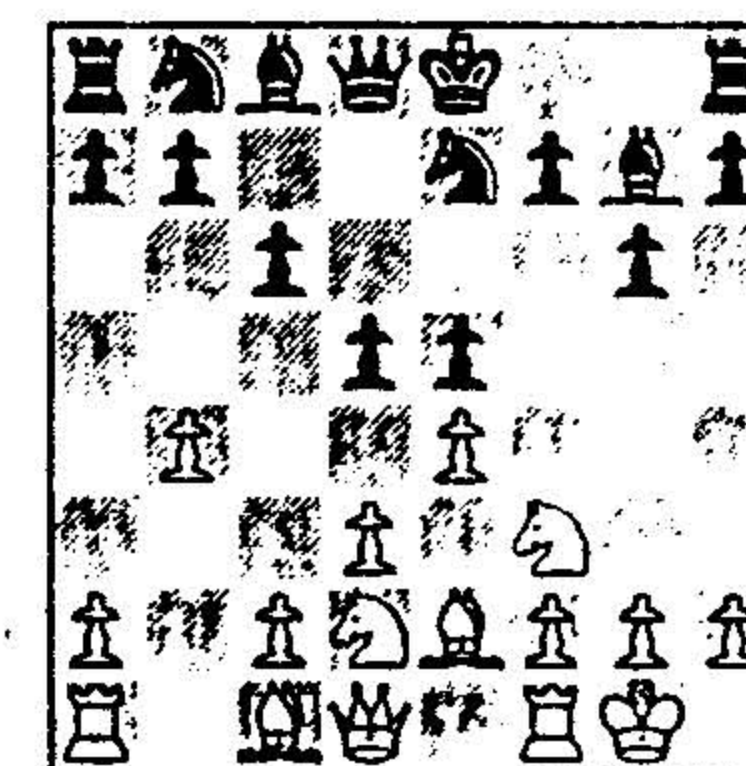
1 e4 c6 2 d3 d5 3 ♜d2 g6 4 ♜g3



4... ♜g7

5 g3 was played in Ljubojević-Karpov, Belgrave (m) 1988. The continuation was 3 ♜d2 g6 4 ♜g3 ♜g7 5 g3 ♜g4 6 h3 ♜xf3 7 ♜xf3 e6 8 h4 ♜d7 9 ♜e2 ♜b6 10 ♜g2 ♜e7 11 0-0 ♜a6 12 a4 0-0 13 h5 dxe4 14 ♜xe4 ♜f5 15 hxcg6 hxcg6 16 ♜a3 ♜f6 17 ♜d2 ♜d5 18 c3 ♜ad8 19 ♜e1 ♜fe8 20 a5 ♜de7 21 ♜e4 ♜b5 22 ♜c2 ♜d6 23 ♜b3 ♜xa5 24 ♜xd6 ♜xd6 25 ♜xb7 ♜a6 26 ♜b3 ♜xd3 27 ♜f4? Here White missed a clear win with 27 ♜e4! ♜a6 28 ♜xe7 ♜xe7 29 ♜b8+ ♜f8 30 ♜xd6. In the game Karpov ultimately lost on time.

5 ♜e2 e5 6 0-0 ♜e7 7 b4!



An important move for White, who plans

to attack e5 by ♜b2. Black may counter this by ... d4 to which White will probably play c3. Black cannot then bolster his centre by ... c5 since White can then capture bxc5.

7... 0-0 8 ♜b2 ♜c7 9 ♜e1 a5 10 a3 ♜a6 11 h3 ♜e6 12 ♜f1 axb4 13 exd5 ♜xd5 14 axb4 ♜axb4 15 c3 ♜a6 16 c4 ♜e7 17 ♜xe5 ♜xe5 18 ♜xe5

White has a positional advantage due to the weak dark squares around the Black king: g7, f6 and h6.

18... c5 19 ♜b3 ♜c6 20 ♜ee1 ♜ad8 21 ♜e4 f5? 22 ♜c3 ♜fe8 23 ♜d5! ♜g7 24 ♜b6! ♜xd5 25 cxd5 ♜d4 26 ♜xd4 cxd4 27 d6 ♜d7 28 g3 ♜b8 29 ♜g2 ♜c6 30 ♜d5+ ♜f8 31 ♜xe8+ ♜xe8 32 ♜xc6 ♜xc6 33 ♜xd4 ♜f7 34 ♜b1 b5 35 ♜a1 ♜d8 36 ♜h4 ♜xd6 37 ♜h7+ ♜f6 38 ♜h8+ ♜e6 39 ♜e1+ ♜d7 40 ♜e8+ ♜c7 41 ♜e7+ ♜b6 42 ♜b8+ ♜a5 43 ♜e1 ♜c3 44 ♜b1 ♜b6 45 ♜d5 1-0.



□ Ljubojević

■ Karpov

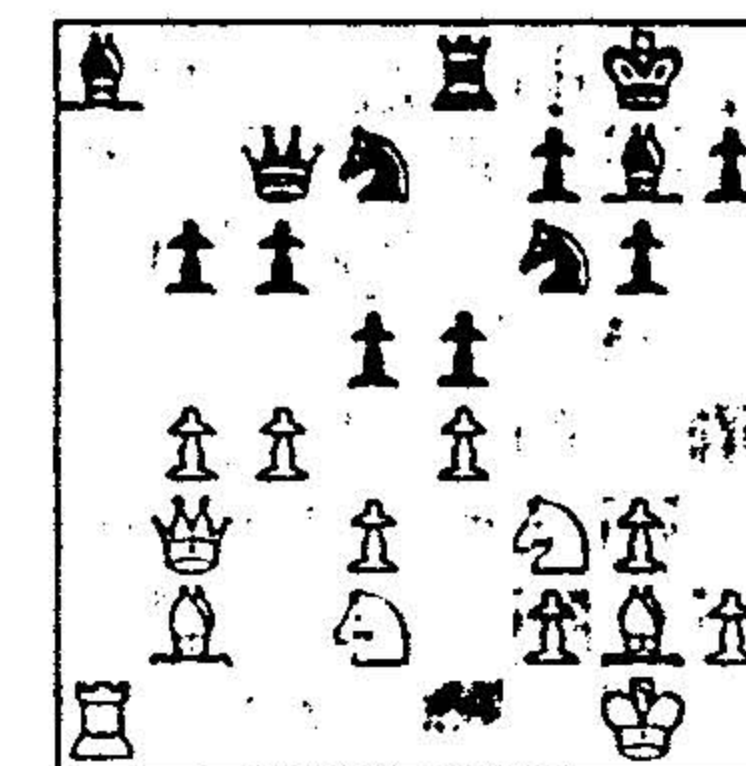
Game 5

Amsterdam 1988

1 e4 c6 2 d3 e5 3 ♜d2

Interesting is 3 f4 d5 4 fxe5 dxe4 5 ♜c3 with the initiative for White.

3... ♜f6 4 ♜g3 d6 5 g3 g6 6 ♜g2 ♜g7 7 0-0 0-0 8 a4 ♜bd7 9 a5 ♜e8 10 b4 ♜b8 11 ♜b2 h5 12 axb6 axb6 13 ♜a7 ♜b7 14 cd4 ♜c7 15 ♜b3 ♜a8 16 ♜xa8 ♜xa8 17 ♜a1 d5



Too ambitious. Ljubojević casts doubt



on this with some neat tactics exploiting the criss-cross of pressure along the a2-g8 and h1-a8 diagonals.

18 cxd5 cxd5 19 ♖g5 ♗d6 20 cxd5 ♗xd5 21 ♖c4 ♗c6 22 ♖c3 ♗xb3 23 ♗xc6 h6 24 ♖a3 h×g5 25 ♖xb3+— ♗f8 26 ♗g2 ♗e6 27 ♗b5 ♗g7 28 h3 ♗e7 29 ♗c3 ♗d6 30 ♖a3 ♗b8 31 ♖a8 ♗e7 32 ♗d2! e4 33 d4 ♗c7 34 ♖c8 ♗f8 35 ♗c3 ♗h7 36 ♗c6 ♗f8 37 h5 1-0.



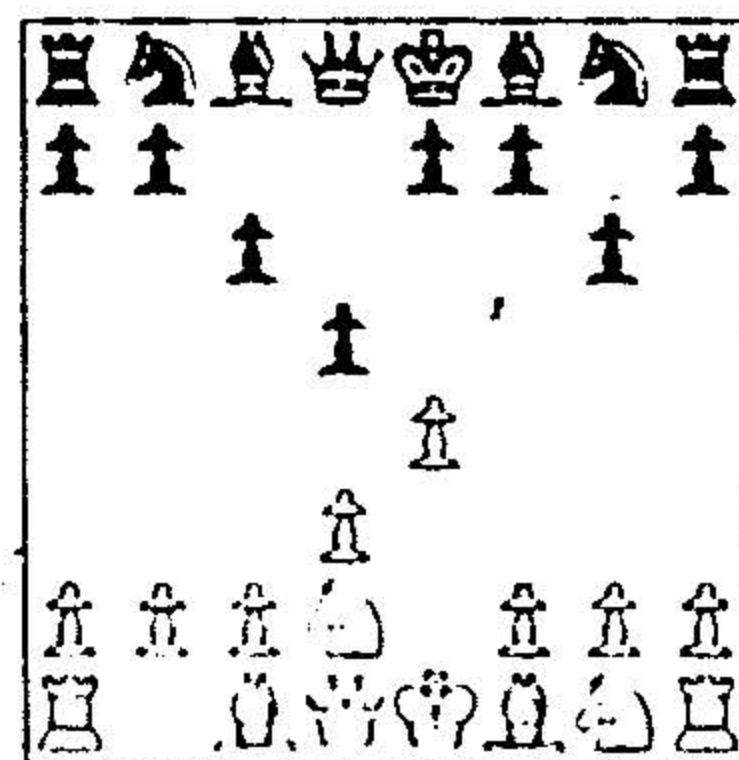
□ Stein

■ Hort

Game 6

Candidates Play-off, Los Angeles 1968

1 e4 c6 2 d3 d5 3 ♖d2 g6



4 g3 ♗g7 5 ♗g2 e5 6 ♖g3 ♖e7 7 0-0 0-0 8 c3

8 b4 a5 9 b×a5 ♗×a5 10 ♗b2 d4 11 a4 ♗c7 12 c3 d×c3 13 ♗×c3 ♖d8 14 ♖c4 ♗e6 15 ♖c3 h6 16 ♗b1 ♖a6 17 ♖c4 ♗×c4 18 d×c4 e5 is Stein-Hort, Candidates Play-off, Los Angeles 1968. 8... ♖d7 9 b4 b6 10 ♗b2 ♗b7 11 ♖e1 ♖c8 12 ♗h3

Setting up threats to win the black e-pawn.

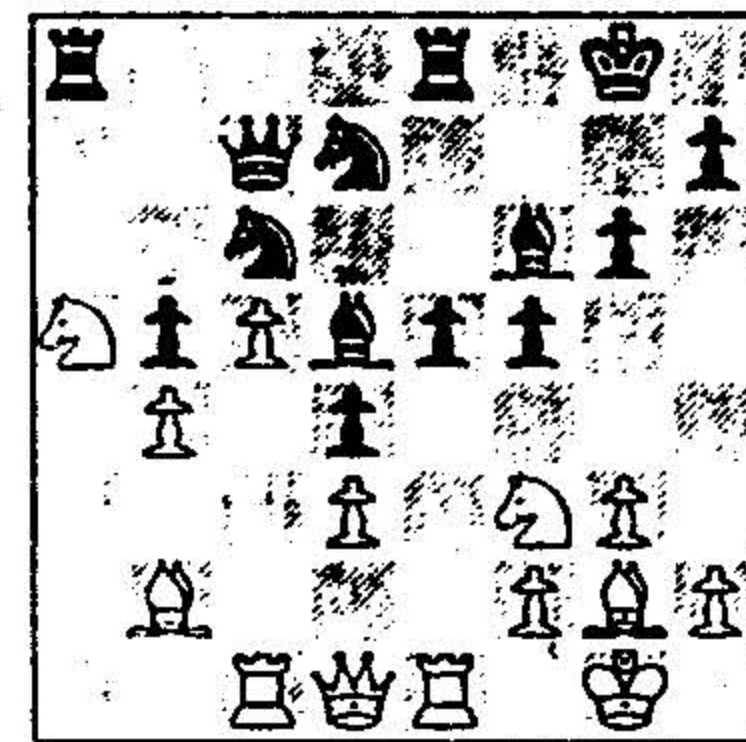
12... ♗c7 13 cxd5 cxd5 14 e4 d4 15 ♖c1 f5 16 ♗g2

White has obtained a good reversed Modern Benoni where his Q-side majority gives him the edge.

16... ♗f6 17 e5 h5 18 ♖b3

Heading for a5, an excellent outpost for the knight to support the passed e-pawn.

18... ♗d5 19 a4 a6 20 ♖a5 ♖c6 21 a×b5 a×b5



22 ♖×e5!!

After the game, Hort became convinced that this combination was unsound, giving 22... ♖×e5! 23 ♗×d5+ ♖×d5 24 ♗b3 ♖×b4 25 c6 (25 ♗×b4 ♗×a5 26 ♗b3 ♗a2!) 25... ♖×a5 26 cxd7 ♗×d7 27 ♗×b4 ♖a8 with advantage to Black. However, White can improve either by 25 ♗a3! after which Black is thrown on the defensive and has to struggle to draw or by the more speculative 24 ♗f3!? which offers excellent chances for a win.

22... ♖×b4 23 ♖×d7 ♗×d7 24 c6 ♗f7 25 ♖×e8+ ♖×e8 26 ♖b7 ♗e5 27 ♗×d5 ♗×d5 28 ♖c5 ♗f7 29 ♗f3 g5?

Accelerating his defeat. Best was 29... ♖a6 30 ♖×b5 ♖c7 31 ♖b4 although White should win eventually.

30 c7 g4 31 ♗d1 ♗×c7 32 ♗d2 ♗b6 33 ♖×b5 ♖×d3 34 ♖d6 ♗d7 35 ♗g5+ ♗h8 36 ♗f6+ ♗g8 37 ♗g5+ ♗h8 38 ♖×e8 ♗×e8 39 ♗×f5 ♖e5 40 ♖×b6 ♖f3+ 41 ♗g2 ♗a8 42 ♗f6+ ♗g8 43 ♗c6+ ♗h8 44 ♗c6 1-0.

This fascinating game of Leonid Stein, the great master of attack, concludes our BCM survey on the 2 d3 Caro Kann.

● OPENING THEORY will be appearing on a regular monthly basis from now on, with a variety of leading players contributing on topical variations.

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*Elvera Sakhatova from Kyrghyzstan*

## OPENING THEORY

### The Semi-Slav in Manila

*Could the Semi-Slav, until now mainly patronised in the former Soviet Union, prove to be one of the first Russian exports to the West?*

*IM Peter Wells investigates*

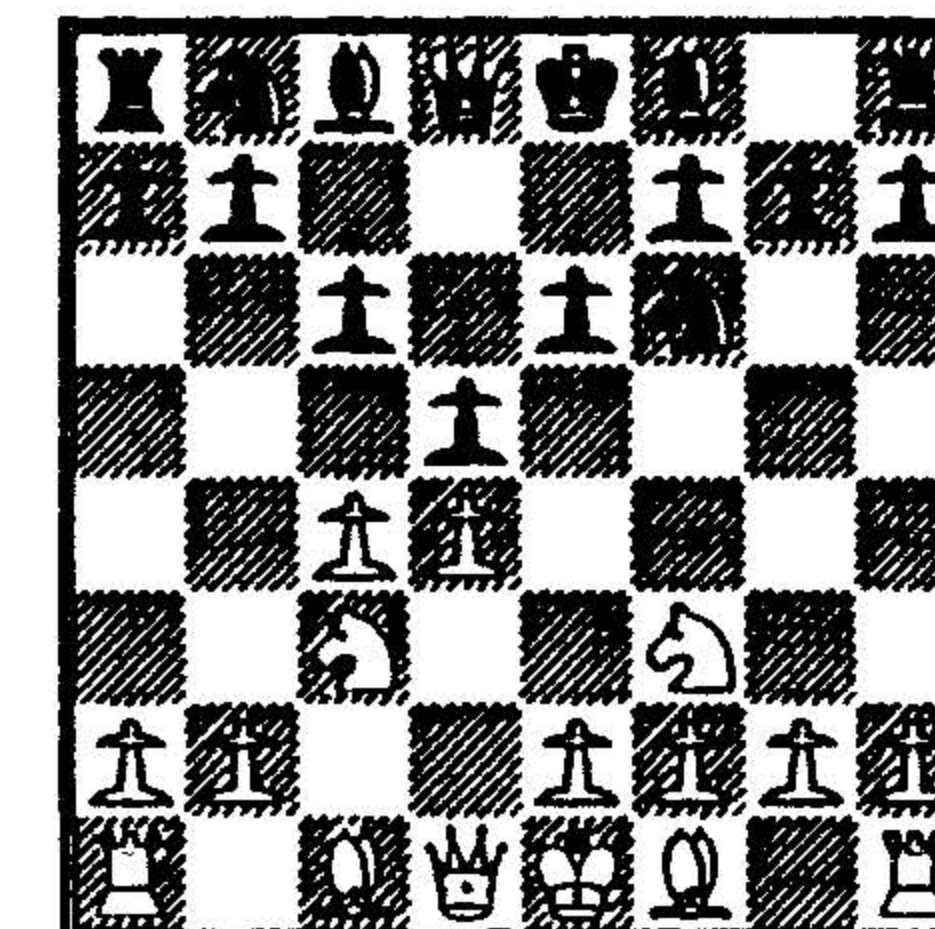
With so many of the world's finest gathered in one arena, Olympiads are naturally enough a fruitful source of new opening ideas. Currently engaged in writing a book for Batsford on the Semi-Slav, I was immediately struck by the prominence of the opening at the top of the event. Moreover, it scored very well for Black. The sensational score of 8½/9 registered by 16 year old Vladimir Kramnik included a pretty satisfactory 4/4 with the Semi-Slav. Young team-mates Dreev and Khalifman also included it in their repertoires.

Quite a coincidence? Not really. For some years now there has been something of an "Iron Curtain" (apologies for the outdated Cold War terminology) in the popularity of the opening. Despite the World Champion's periodic patronage of it, Anand's sole reliance on the opening in his match with Karpov, and more to the point the undeniably sharp and exciting positions it gives rise to, the boom the Semi-Slav has enjoyed in the former Soviet Union for several years has had no real equivalent in the West.

My aim here is to put some of the most important Semi-Slav games from Manila into the context of contemporary theory, and hopefully in the process persuade some readers that here is a defence to 1 d4 that offers both solidity, and the chance to play for the full point.

The starting point of the Slav occurs after:

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 c6



I would like to concentrate on White's two sharpest options from the diagram, the basic position of the Semi-Slav, namely:-

- (a) 5 ♘g5
- (b) 5 e3 ♘bd7 6 ♘d3

(a) 5 ♘g5

-----  
QGD Slav D44

□ Luke van Wely

■ Vladimir Kramnik

Netherlands v Russia, Rd 3

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1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 e6 5 ♘g5 dxc4

One of the advantages of the Semi-Slav over the Queens Gambit Declined (QGD) is that White cannot play 5 ♘g5 undisturbed. In addition to the text which immediately sharpens the play, Black has the solid option of 5 ... h6 after which White must either relinquish the two bishops albeit for some space advantage, or fish in the distinctly muddy waters of 6 ♘h4



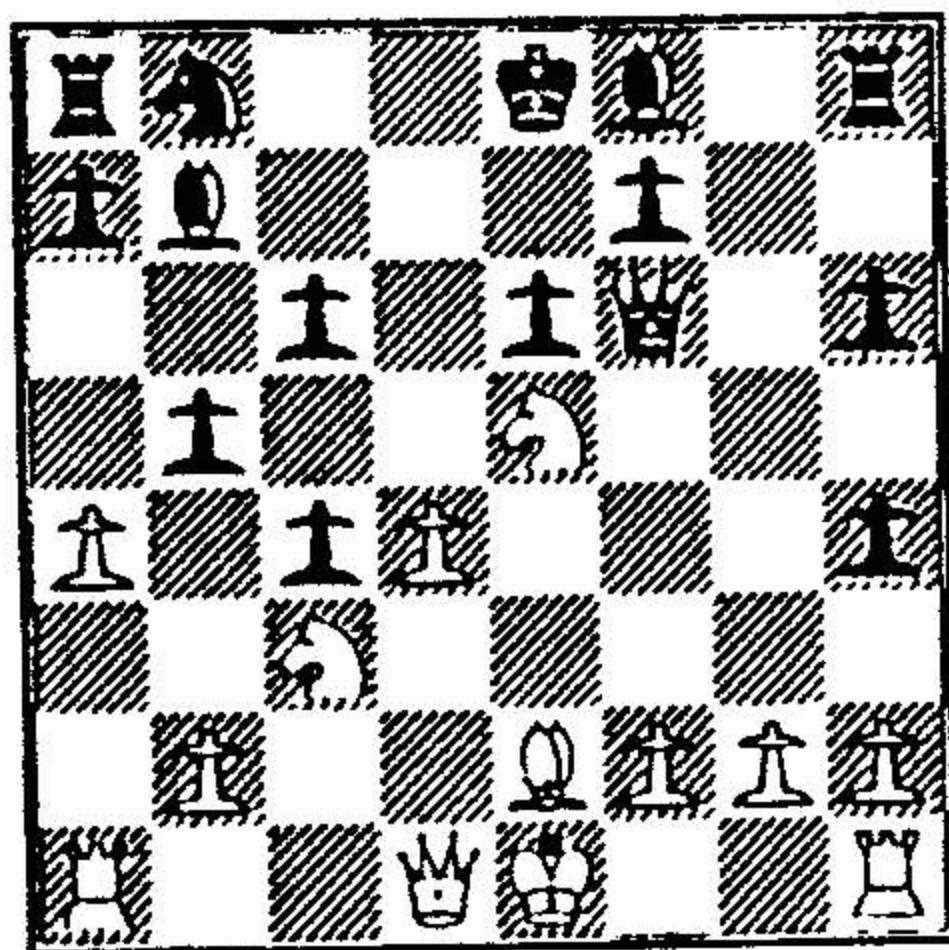
dx4. By contrast, 5 ... ♖b6? is definitely not recommended. Its somewhat undeserved test at a key moment of the 1992 Bern Open in the game P Cramling - G Flear has received a certain amount of interest. In addition to Glenn and his team of pre-game analysts and Pia herself, Flacnik in his notes for CBM 28 failed to spot the rather simple refutation 6 ♖c2 ♕e4 7 ♕xe4 dxe4 8 c5!+-. Someone was bound to benefit from all this and it was Andrew Muir in round 11 against Atotubo of the Phillipines who collected after 8 ... ♖b5 9 a4 ♖a6 10 ♖xe4 b6 11 b4 ♖c4 12 ♕d2 a5 13 ♖b1! and black was in even more trouble.

6 e4 b5 7 a4!?

Somewhat unusual. The main debate centres around 7 e5, h6 8 ♕h4 g5 and then either 9 ♕xg5 hxg5 10 ♕xg5 ♕bd7 11 g3(!) or 9 exf6 gxh4 10 ♕e5 I am firmly of the belief that the former offers White the best prospects of a plus, but the latter, intending 10 ... ♖xf6 (10 ... ♕d7?? 11 ♕xf7! ♕xf7 12 ♖h5+ ♕xf6 13 ♖h4+-) 11 a4 has been very popular of late.

Some examples:

(i) 11 ... ♕b7 12 ♕e2



12 ... h3!? (The older 12 ... c5 was not bad either, but White enjoyed some success latterly with 13 ♕h5! [13 ♕xb5 ♕a6 14 ♕h5 cxd4! 15 ♕xf7+ ♕c7 16

♖xd4 ♕d8 17 ♖e3 ♕d5 gave black a lot of counterplay in van Gaalen - Oakes, Dutch Ch. 1986]. If 13 ... ♕h7 14 axb5! ♖f4 15 ♕e2 ♖g5 16 ♕f3 ♕xf3 17 gxf3 and Black had definite mobilisation problems in Gaprindashvili - Arakhamia, Tskhaltubo 1988, or 13 ... ♕g7!? 14 ♕xf7+ ♕e7 15 f4 [Tukmakov - Kuijff Wijk aan Zee II 1991] when even after 15 ... ♕d8!? 16 0-0 ♕xd4 17 ♖g4 white has quite a dangerous attack) 13 ♕f3 hxg2 14 ♕g1 b4 15 ♕e4 ♖f4 16 ♕xg2 ♕d7! was mass confusion in Moskalenko - Shabalov Podolsk 1990. It goes without saying that this could use more tests.

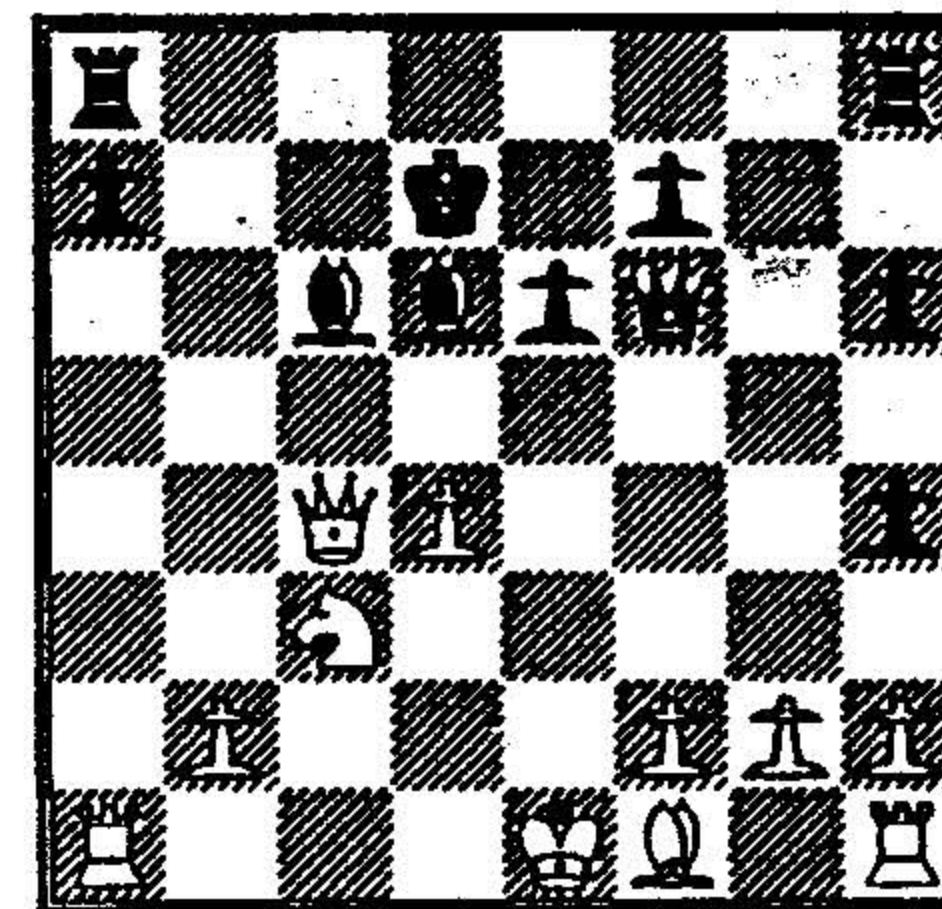
(ii) 11 ... c5 has quite a bit of sting, e.g. the plausible 12 ♕e2 was refuted in Conquest - Novikov Tbilisi 1988 by 12 ... cxd4 13 ♖xd4 ♕d7 14 ♖e4 ♕b8 15 ♕c6 ♕c5 16 ♕d5 ♖xf2+! when Black gets great play for the exchange. Better seems to be 12 ♕g4(!) although Kaidanov's suggestion 12 ... ♖e7 13 dxc5 ♕b7 14 ♖d4 e5 15 ♖xe5 ♖xe5 16 ♕xe5 ♕xc5 seems to give good counterplay. 7 ... ♕b7 8 e5?!

White is offering a transposition to the lines considered above whilst avoiding 11 ... c5. Unfortunately, Black has a new possibility too. As far as I can see, Ribli's rather sensible 8 axb5 cxb5 9 ♕xb5 ♕xe4 10 ♕xc4 ♕b4+ 11 ♕c3 ♕bd7 12 0-0 remains unrefuted, and looks a better try for an edge. 8 ... h6 9 ♕h4 g5 10 exf6 gxh4 11 ♕e5 ♕d7(!)

Here it is! 11 ... ♖xf6 is the transpositional course, but the text, now that ♕xf7 is no longer sound, looks promising. Now 12 ♕e2 ♕xe5 13 dxe5 ♖c7 14 ♖d4 h3! was Kohlweyer - Ribli, Dortmund 1986 and the need to prevent such undermining explains White's novelty.

12 ♖h5 ♖xf6 13 ♕xd7 ♕xd7 14 axb5 cxb5 15 ♖xb5+ ♕c6 16 ♖xc4

♕d6



White has problems developing his kingside, is weak on the dark squares and has failed to trouble black's king unduly. Hence his next idea looks the best chance.

17 ♕a6 ♕fc8 18 ♕xc6 ♕xc6 19 ♖a4 ♖g5! 20 ♕b5 ♖xg2 21 d5 ♖xh1+ 22 ♕e2 ♕d8 23 ♕xc6 ♕b8 24 ♕b5 exd5!

The threat of ... ♕xb2+ renders the bishop immune, and after tucking his king away neatly the rest is (excellent) technique.

25 ♖a5+ ♕e7 26 ♖xa7+ ♕f8 27 ♖e3 ♕g8 28 h3 ♕f8 29 ♖f4 ♖e4+ 30 ♖xe4 dxe4 31 ♕e3 ♕b6 32 ♕d7 ♕f6 33 b3 ♕c5+ 34 ♕xe4 ♕xf2 35 ♕d5 ♕b4 36 ♕d4 ♕g7 37 ♕c4 ♕f4 38 ♕d5 ♕f6 39 ♕c8 ♕f1 40 ♕g4 ♕c3 41 ♕f3 ♕g6 42 ♕xh4+ ♕g5 43 ♕f3+ ♕f4 44 ♕h4 ♕f2 45 ♕c8 ♕g5 0-1

(b) 5 e3 ♕bd7 6 ♕d3

QGD Slav D47

□ GM Jeroen Piket

■ GM Lembit Oll

Netherlands v Estonia, Rd 13

1 d4 ♕f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♕f3 d5 4 ♕c3 c6 5 e3 ♕bd7 6 ♕d3 dxc4 7 ♕xc4 b5 8 ♕d3

Black's freeing manoeuvre ... dxc4 and ... b5 initiates the Meran Variation, known since 1924 and the subject of considerable theoretical investigation which today moves faster than ever. 8 ♕d3, preparing e4 is the main line but there are two alternatives both of which had a difficult outing in Manila:

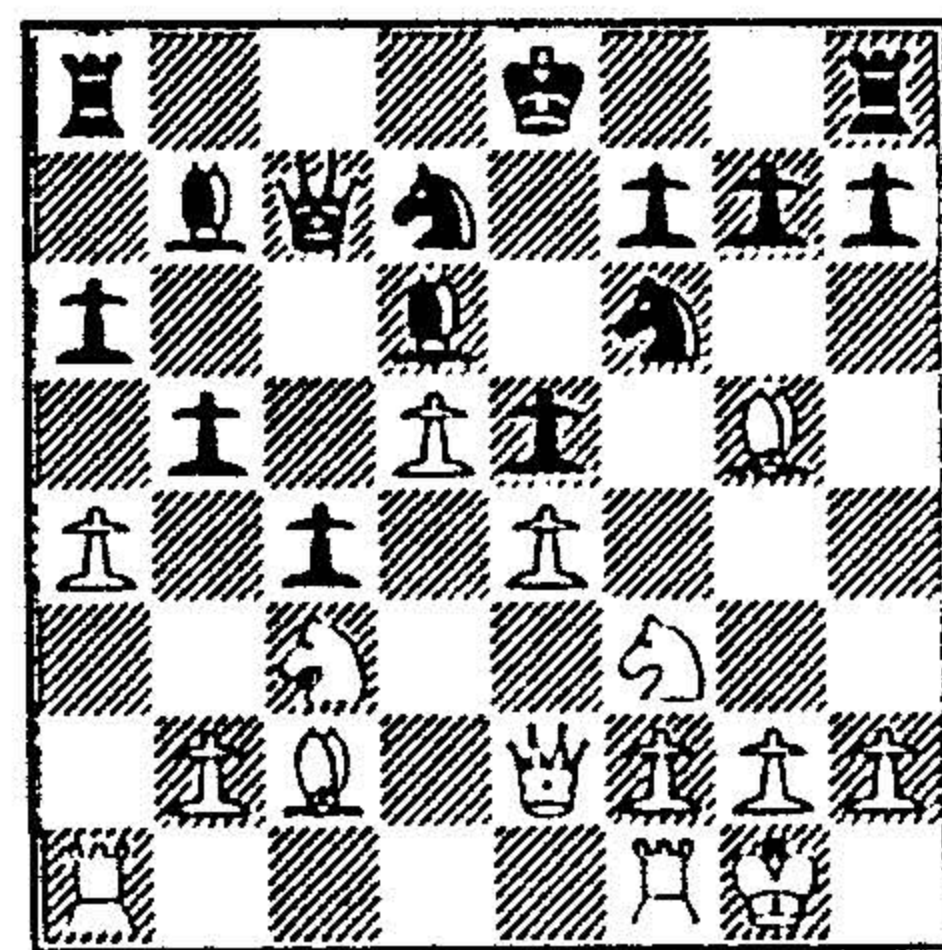
(i) 8 ♕e2 has recently become almost trendy. White intends e4, answering ... b4 with e5, leading to complex positions in which it is important that the bishop be on an unexposed square. The most respectable defence lately has been 8 ... b4 since White can hardly prevent a later ... c5. One recent game offering food for thought however was Polugaevsky - Speelman, Roquebrune 30 min 1992: 8 ... b4 9 ♕a4 ♕b7 10 0-0 ♕e7 11 ♖c2 0-0 (11 ... ♕c8!?) 12 ♕d1 c5 13 ♕c5 ♕xc5 14 dxc5 ♖a5 15 a3! (Intending 15 ... bxa3 16 b4) 15 ... ♖xc5 16 ♖xc5 ♕xc5 17 axb4 ♕xb4 18 ♕d2 a5 19 ♕e5 gave white a small but persistent pull in the ending (1-0, 45). Kramnik's little-tested approach offers a simple and welcome alternative for Black, 8 ... a6 9 e4 b4 10 e5 bxc3 11 exf6 ♕xf6! (11 ... cxb2 fails to equalise) 12 bxc3 ♕d6 13 0-0 0-0 14 c4?! (Maybe 14 ♕g5 although ... c5 still looks quite comfortable for Black) 14 ... c5 15 ♕a3 ♖a5 16 ♕xc5 ♕xc5 17 dxc5 ♕d8 18 ♖b3 ♖xc5 and Black's structure looked the more reliable (0-1, 61) in Seirawan - Kramnik, Manila (Rd 7) 1992

(ii) 8 ♕b3 received a test in Garcia Palermo - Anand. After 8 ... b4 9 ♕a4 (9 ♕e2 and a later ♕f4 is a better justification of the bishop's placing) 9 ... ♕b7 10 ♕d2 ♕e7 11 0-0 0-0 12 ♖e2 a5! (Seems to improve on the immediate ... c5 of Gelfand - Dreev, USSR 1986. Black permits White to play e4 and e5 since White's pieces are not placed to obtain attacking chances to



compensate for Black's ensuing d5 outpost) 13  $\text{Hf}1$   $\text{Bb}8$  14 e4 c5 15 e5  $\text{d}5$  16  $\text{Qg}5$   $\text{Qxg}5$  17  $\text{d}5$  h6 18  $\text{d}3$   $\text{Bc}8$  19  $\text{Bac}1$  cxd4 20  $\text{Bxc}8+$   $\text{Bxc}8$  21  $\text{d}4$   $\text{Bc}7$ ! 22  $\text{Qxd}5$   $\text{Qxd}5$  black had a clear plus.  
8 ...  $\text{Qb}7$  9 e4

The hotly debated main line of Wade's variation. Successes for Black in this line have boosted the recent popularity of 9 0-0!? After 9 ... a6 10 e4 c5 11 d5 c4 12  $\text{Qc}2$  White hopes to prove that Black's b7-bishop is misplaced. The 'state of the art' approach here is for neither side to release the central tension by 12 ...  $\text{Bc}7$  13  $\text{B}e2$  (If 13 dxe6 fxe6 14  $\text{B}e2$   $\text{Qd}6$  15  $\text{d}5$   $\text{d}6$  16 f4 h6! 17  $\text{d}3$   $\text{d}3$ ! 18  $\text{Qxd}3$  cxd3 19  $\text{Bxd}3$  0-0! [Bareev - Shirov Hastings 1992] Black gets good compensation after the relatively best 20 e5  $\text{Qc}5+$  21  $\text{Qh}1$   $\text{d}5$  22  $\text{d}5$   $\text{Qxd}5$  23 b3  $\text{Bd}8$ . White has yet to find a significant improvement) 13 ...  $\text{Qd}6$  14  $\text{Qg}5$ ! e5 15 a4!?

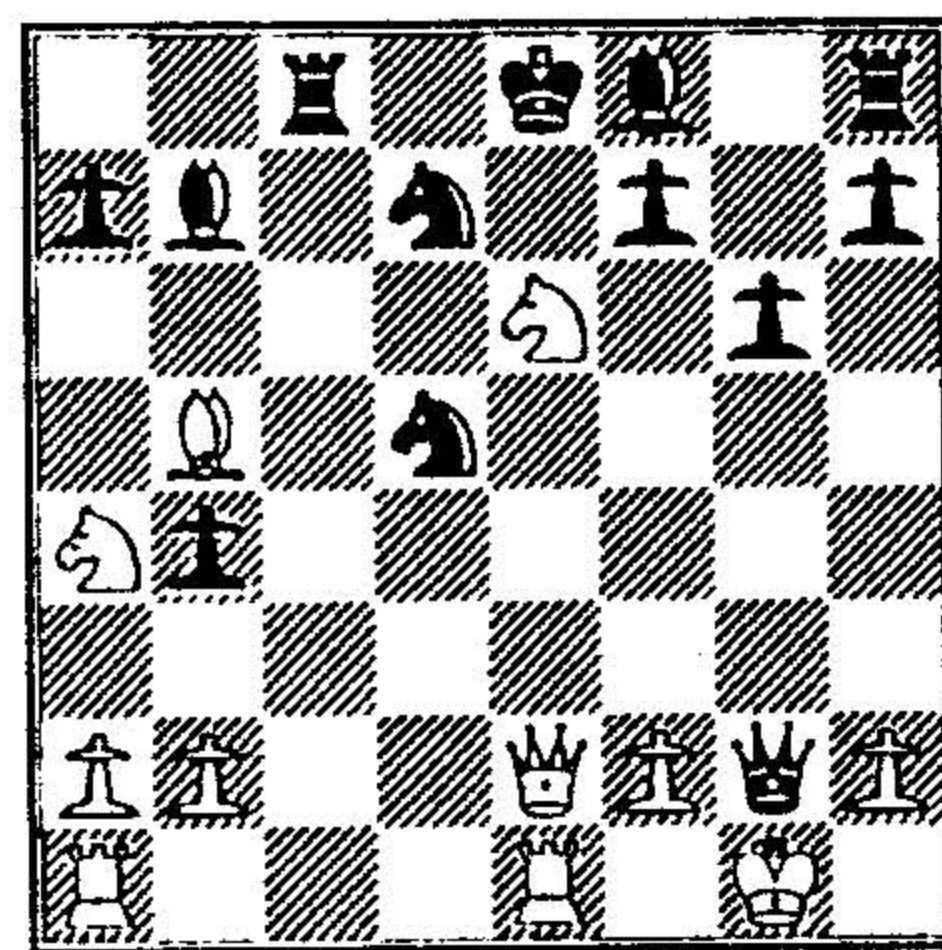


(15  $\text{d}4$  g6!?N 16  $\text{Bf}3$   $\text{Bd}8$  17  $\text{Bd}1$   $\text{Bc}8$  [17 ... b4? 18  $\text{Qa}4$ !; 17 ... h6!?] 18 a3  $\text{Bc}7$  19  $\text{d}2$  h6 20  $\text{Qd}2$   $\text{d}5$  21  $\text{Qc}3$ ! [21 g3!? keeping the tension looks better] 21 ...  $\text{d}5$ ! 22  $\text{d}5$  g6! and Black looked fine in the complications Lobron - Ribli, Bundesliga KO Cup 1992) 15 ... b4 16  $\text{d}1$  a5 17  $\text{Bc}1$   $\text{Qa}6$  18  $\text{d}3$  0-0 19  $\text{Qxf}6$ ! (19  $\text{d}2$ ? c3 20  $\text{Qd}3$   $\text{Qxd}3$  21  $\text{Bxd}3$   $\text{d}5$ )

19 ...  $\text{d}5$ ! 20  $\text{d}2$   $\text{Bc}8$  21  $\text{Qb}1$  c3 22  $\text{Qd}3$   $\text{Qxd}3$  23  $\text{Bxd}3$   $\text{Bab}8$  24 bxc3 bxc3 25  $\text{d}5$   $\text{Qf}8$  26 d6  $\text{Bc}6$  27  $\text{d}7$   $\text{Qe}7$  28 dxe7  $\text{Bc}5$  29  $\text{d}3$  h6 1/2-1/2 Belavsky - Khalifman, Manila Rd 8 1992.

The strength or weakness of Black's queenside majority is the key question in this line, and this interesting game provides no clear answer.  
8 ... b4 10  $\text{d}4$  c5 11 e5  $\text{d}5$  12 0-0 h6!?

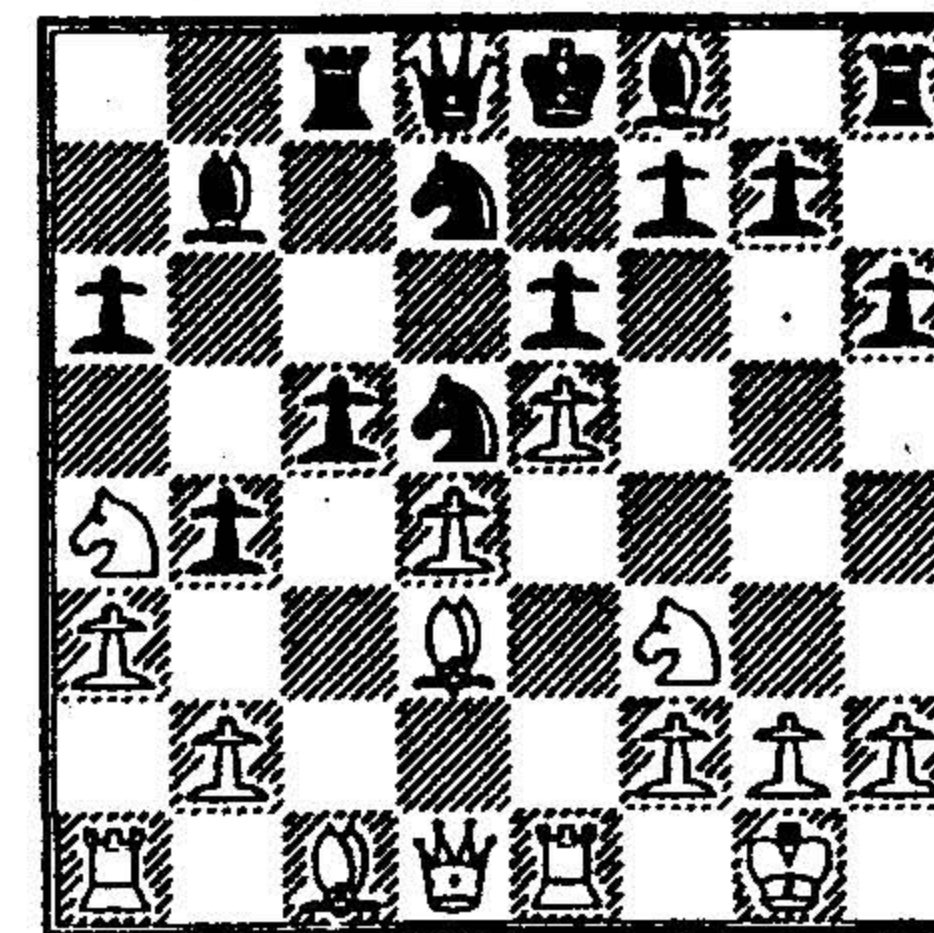
An interesting speciality of Oll's, but the main line 12 ... cxd4 is holding up well too. In the pawn sac line 13  $\text{d}4$   $\text{d}5$  14  $\text{Qb}5+$   $\text{d}7$  15  $\text{Bc}1$   $\text{Bc}8$  16  $\text{Bh}5$  g6 17  $\text{B}e2$  Dreev confirmed that his favourite 17 ...  $\text{B}e7$ ! is a viable alternative to 17 ... a6. The game continued 18  $\text{Qg}5$   $\text{Bxg}5$  19  $\text{d}6$   $\text{Bxg}2$ !.



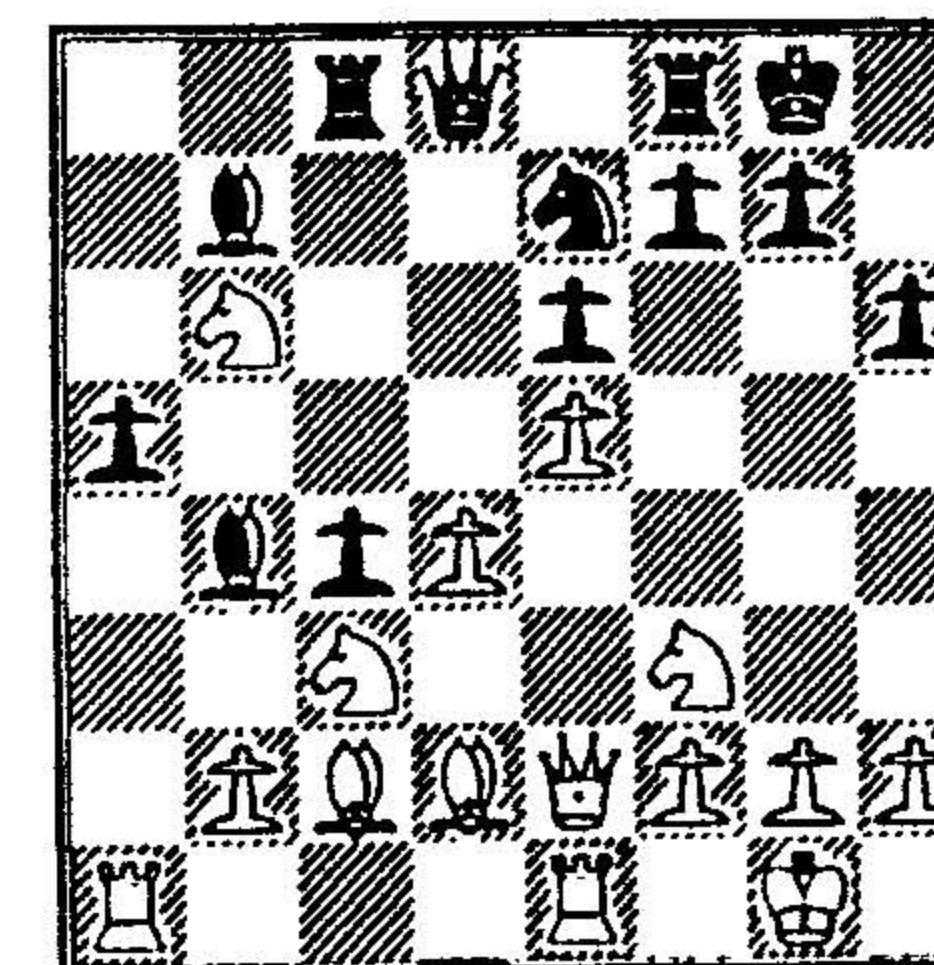
20  $\text{Bxg}2$   $\text{d}4$ ! 21  $\text{Bf}1$   $\text{d}5$  22  $\text{Bd}1$  fxe6! 23  $\text{Qxd}7$   $\text{Bf}7$  24  $\text{Qxc}8$   $\text{Qxc}8$  25  $\text{Bxe}2$   $\text{Qa}6$ ! and now instead of the finely balanced 26  $\text{B}e3$ !  $\text{Qb}5$  27 b3  $\text{Qh}6$ ! 28  $\text{Bf}3$   $\text{Bc}8$  when black's bishop pair and extra pawn give sufficient compensation for the exchange (I Sokolov - Shirov, Stockholm 1990) White deviated incorrectly with 26  $\text{Bf}3$ ?  $\text{Qb}7$ ! 27  $\text{Bg}3$   $\text{Qd}5$  28 b3  $\text{Qd}6$ ! 29  $\text{Bh}3$   $\text{Bf}8$  30  $\text{d}2$   $\text{Bg}7$  and faced with unpleasant threats felt moved to return the exchange (0-1, 69).

Alterman's 13  $\text{Bc}1$  g6 14  $\text{Qd}2$ !

however, may deceive with its innocuous appearance. He wishes to answer 14 ... a6 with 15  $\text{Qe}4$  when b4 looks a little weak, and the casual 14 ...  $\text{Qg}7$  15  $\text{Qb}5$  a6?! (15 ...  $\text{Bc}8$ !) allows 16  $\text{dxc}5$  axb5 17  $\text{dxb}7$   $\text{Bb}6$  18  $\text{d}6$ ! as Dreev discovered in round 13.  
13 a3 a6 14  $\text{Bc}1$   $\text{Bc}8$ N



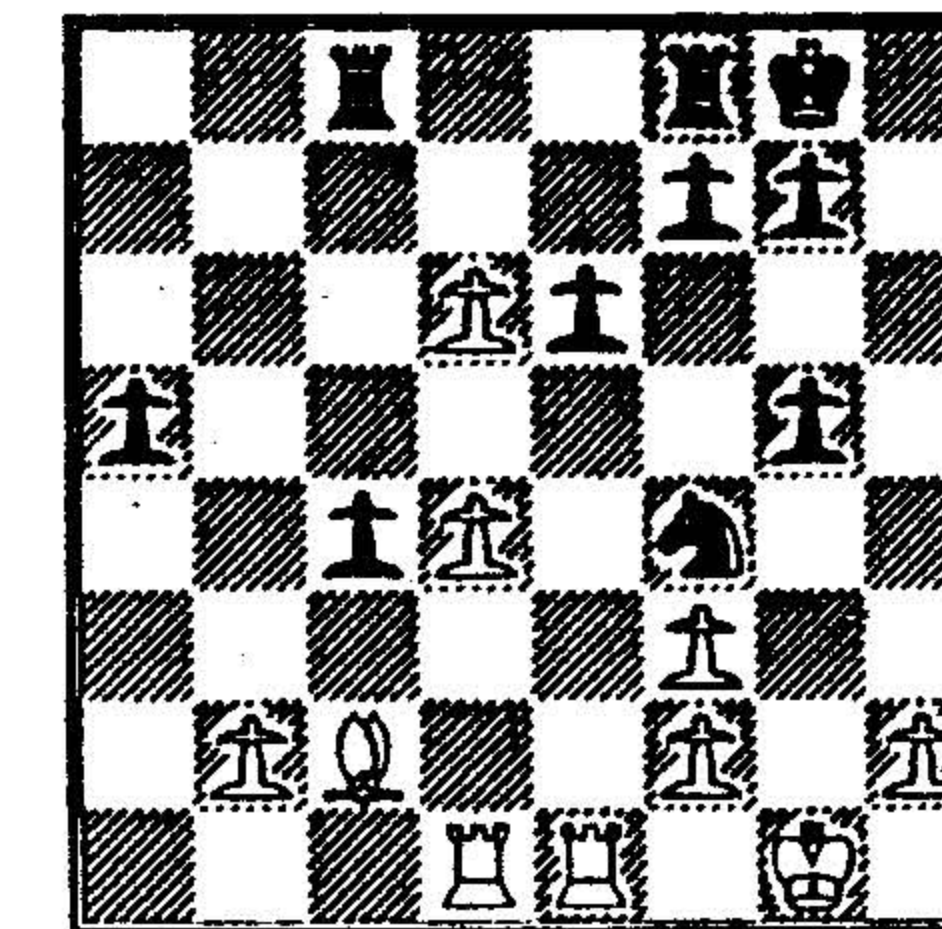
12 ... h6 is useful in all the lines where White captures on c5, and Black's idea is that White has less useful semi-waiting moves that maintain the tension. However, Piket has elected to challenge Black's spatial plus on the queenside with a3. After Oll's novelty it is not too clear how White should proceed. In the game Black soon has both queenside play and an excellent hold on the central light squares. Perhaps we have seen the last of 13 a3  
15 axb4 c4! 16  $\text{Qe}4$   $\text{Qxb}4$  17  $\text{Qd}2$  a5 18  $\text{d}3$   $\text{d}7$ ! 19  $\text{Qc}2$  0-0 20  $\text{B}e2$   $\text{d}7$ !



Preventing  $\text{B}e4$  and preparing to threaten ...  $\text{d}4$

21  $\text{Bd}1$   $\text{d}6$  22  $\text{d}4$   $\text{d}5$  23  $\text{d}6$   $\text{Qxd}6$  24 exd6  $\text{d}4$  25  $\text{Qxf}4$   $\text{d}4$  26  $\text{B}e5$   $\text{Qxf}3$  27 gxf3  $\text{B}g5$ +

The ending is horrible for White. Black has the perfect knight, and the white d-pawns cause only temporary inconvenience. Oll's technique is very instructive. Note how he first forces White into almost total passivity.



28  $\text{Bxg}5$  hxg5 29  $\text{Qa}4$   $\text{Bb}8$  30  $\text{Bd}2$   $\text{Bb}4$  31  $\text{Bd}1$   $\text{Bd}8$  32 d7  $\text{Bf}8$  33  $\text{Bc}2$   $\text{B}e7$  34 h4 (desperation) 34 ... gxf4 35  $\text{Bh}2$  g5 36  $\text{Qc}6$   $\text{Qd}6$  37  $\text{Qa}4$   $\text{d}5$  38  $\text{B}e2$  c3 39 b3  $\text{Bxd}4$  40  $\text{Qb}5$   $\text{Bd}2$  41  $\text{Bxd}2$  cxd2 42  $\text{Bd}1$   $\text{Bc}5$  43  $\text{Qa}4$   $\text{d}3$  44  $\text{Bxd}2$   $\text{d}4$  45 bxa4  $\text{Bc}6$  46  $\text{Bc}2$   $\text{Qd}6$  47  $\text{Bb}2$   $\text{Bxd}7$  48  $\text{Bb}5$  e5 49  $\text{Bxa}5$   $\text{Qe}6$  50  $\text{B}a6$   $\text{Bf}5$  51 a5  $\text{Bd}2$  52  $\text{B}g2$   $\text{B}a2$  53  $\text{B}a7$  f6 54 a6  $\text{Bf}4$  55  $\text{B}a8$   $\text{B}a1$  56 a7 f5 57  $\text{Bh}2$   $\text{B}a4$  58  $\text{B}g2$   $\text{B}a2$  59  $\text{Bh}3$  e4

A nice finish. If 60 fxe4  $\text{Bxf}2$  and mate is unavoidable.

60  $\text{B}e8$   $\text{Bxa}7$  61 fxe4  $\text{B}a2$  62  $\text{B}g2$   $\text{B}e2$  0-1

*The Complete Semi-Slav*  
by Peter Wells will appear  
around June next year.



# OPENING THEORY

Top Ten Opening Novelties  
by GM Murray Chandler

Each issue the journal *Chess Informator* invites a panel of leading Grandmasters to vote on the ten most important novelties in the preceding volume. Having often been on this panel, I can verify that this selection is no easy task. For example, in volume 53 (just out) the game Adams-Shirov, Biel 1991 received top marks of 10 points from one panellist, just 1 point from another panellist, and nothing at all from anybody else! The novelty in that game ran 1 e4 c5 2 f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 fxd4 f6 5 c3 g6 6 Qc4 Qg7 7 0-0 0-0 8 h3 Qc6 9 Qc3 Qxe4 10 Qxf7+ Qxf7! and Black won (see game 211 of *Informator* 52 for Shirov's full annotations).

Nevertheless a consensus generally emerges over the leading theoretical discoveries. As *Informator* pride themselves on obtaining notes directly from the participants of important games, I checked on the original annotator in each case. One of the players involved had indeed annotated

each game - impressive considering the logistic feats required not only to track down roving prima-donna professionals but also to extract notes from them. Deputy Editors Milutin Kostic and Zdenko Krnic - rumoured to be former Pinkerton's detectives - are familiar figures on the international tournament circuit. Even the toughest GMs start desperately scrawling annotations on table napkins at their approach. Play an interesting game and there is no escape. The Men from *Informator* will find you.

Here are prizewinning novelties the panel selected from the pool of 638 complete games ("N" stands for novelty).

- 1 -

## Queen's Indian E15

□ GM Anatoly Karpov

■ GM Alexander Khalifman

Reykjavik 1991

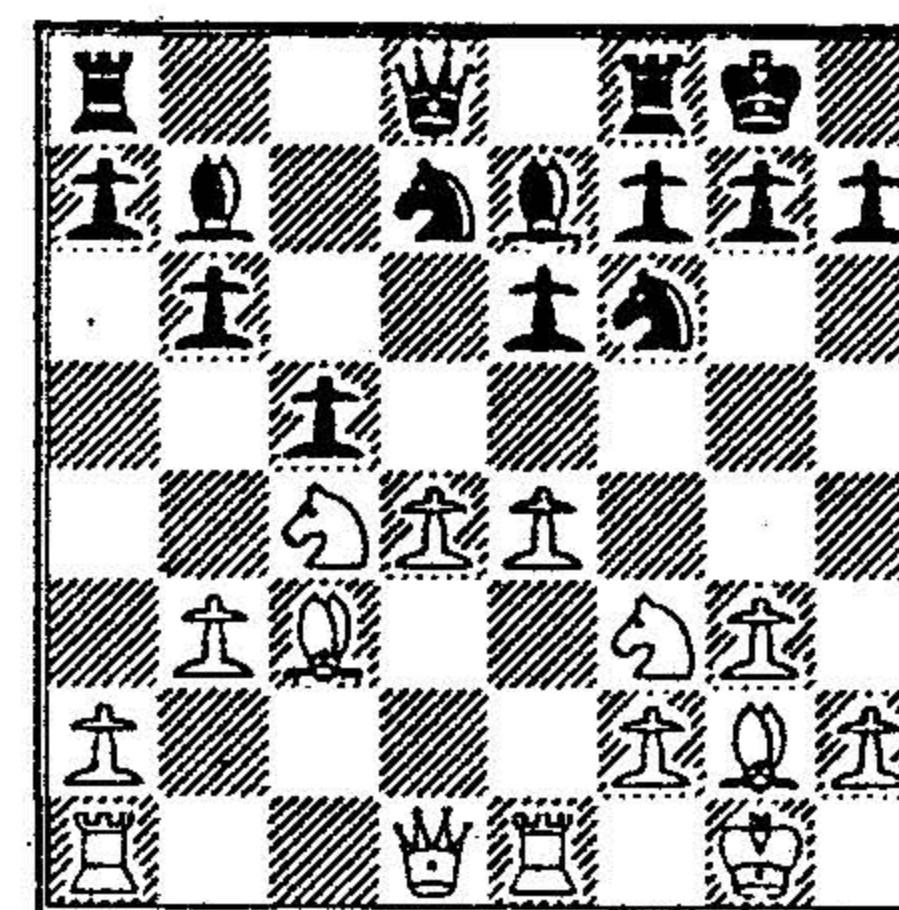
1 d4 f6 2 c4 e6 3 f3 b6 4 g3

		WALTER BROWNE	LUBOMIR FTAČNIK	KIRIL GEORGIEV	SVETOZAR GLIGORIC	VLASTIMIL HORT	JOHANN HAARTARSON	JURIJ RAZUVAEV	VALERIJ SALOV	JAN TIMMAN
predlog redakcije предложение редакции editorial selection vorschlag der redaktion proposition de la rédaction proposición de la redacción proposta della redazione redakciunens forslag مقترح هيئة التحرير										
1. AN. KARPOV - KHALIFMAN	529	3	6	8	10	7	2	7	10	6
2. EHLVEST - BELJAVSKI	315	6	9	9	9	10	4	9	9	47
3. N. SHORT - B. GELFAND	302	7	9	8	10	5	3	10	43	
4. ŠIROV - TH. ERNST	471	10	9	5	9	3	6	42		
5. EHLVEST - P. NIKOLIĆ	292	9	8	7	9	6	1	2	42	
6. GLEK - SERPER	200	1	10	5	5	8	8	8	40	
7. IVANČUK - JUSUPOV	68	4	7	6	7	7	1	7	31	
8. MOSKALENKO - ŠIROV	605	5	5	5	5	8	9	1	22	
9. TIMMAN - KORICHNOI	1175	6	2	8	2	2	3	21		
10. WELLS - CONQUEST	431	5	6	6	6	6	9	20		

How the panel voted: The top 10 theoretical novelties in volume 52

Qa6 5 b3 Qb4+ 6 Qd2 Qe7 7 Qg2  
8 Qc3 d5 9 Qbd2 Qbd7 10 0-0  
0-0 11 Qd4 Qc5 5 Qc3 Qf6 6 c3 Qge7 7  
Qc4 Qe5 8 Qe2 Qg6 9 0-0 d5

It seems strange that the winning novelty is a relatively quiet move in the Queen's Indian. Clearly a strong new plan in a main line opening is more important than a spectacular move in an obscure sideline.



14 Qd3! N

Improving on 14 e5 Qd5 15 Qb2 b5 of Ftacnik-Lerner, Amsterdam 1988. Perhaps the panel were impressed with the fact that Karpov was happy to lose a tempo with his queen. The immediate 14 Qc2 Qc8 gives unpleasant threats down the c-file.

14 ... cxd4 15 fxd4 Qc5 16 Qc2 a6 17 Qad1 Qc7 18 Qd2 Qcd7 19 Qf4 Qc5 20 Qc1 Qc7 21 e5 Qd5 22 Qe3 Qxc2 23 Qdxc2 Qac8 24 Qxd5 exd5 25 Qxd5 Qxd5 26 Qxd5 Qxc2 27 Qxd7 Qb4 28 Qed1 Qxa2 29 Qe3 Qc5 30 Qxc5 bxc5 31 Qc7 Qa3 32 e6 fxe6 33 Qdd7 1-0

- 2 -

## Scotch C45

□ GM Jaan Ehvest

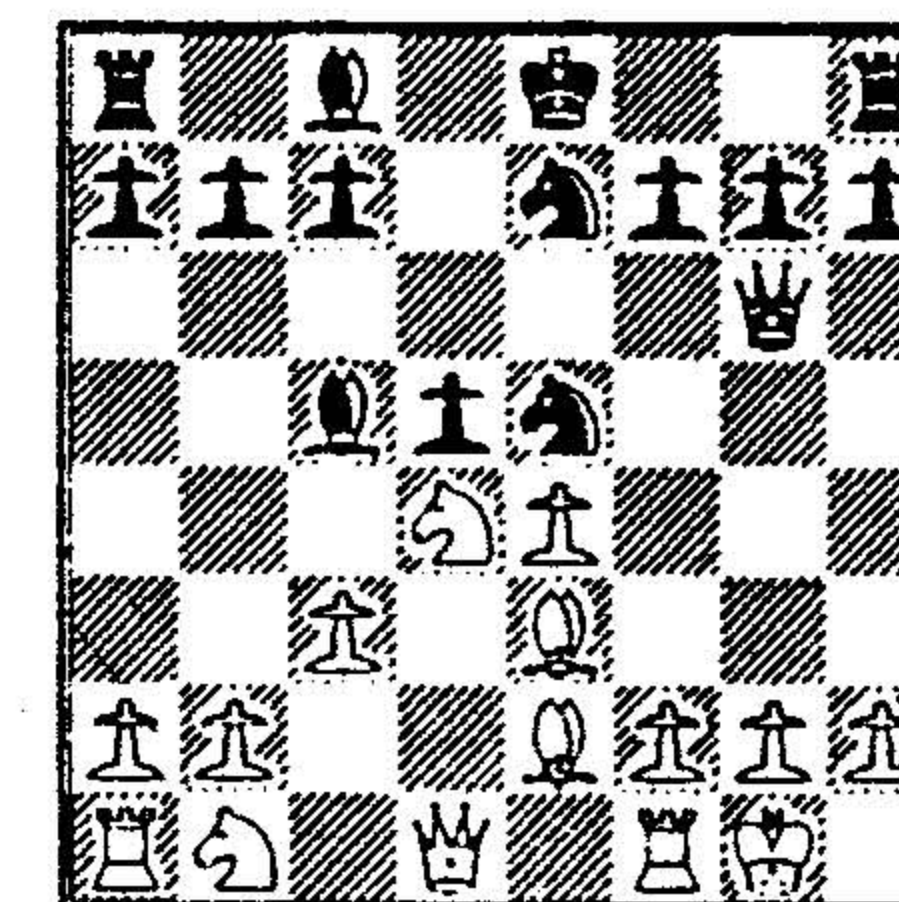
■ GM Alexander Belyavsky

Reykjavik 1991

1 e4 e5 2 f3 Qc6 3 d4 exd4 4

Qxd4 Qc5 5 Qc3 Qf6 6 c3 Qge7 7  
Qc4 Qe5 8 Qe2 Qg6 9 0-0 d5

18 months ago a new move in an obscure sideline of the Scotch might have passed without comment. Now analysts are burning the midnight oil with this ancient opening.



10 Qh5! N

Forcing Black to grab the e-pawn after which White has an extremely dangerous attack. This was a major improvement on the old 10 Qf4 Qh3 (or even 10 ... Qxe4!?) 11 Qg3 h5 unclear, Kopäev - Hvalicev, USSR 1949.

10 ... Qxe4 11 Qd2 Qd3 12 Qf3 Qd6 13 Qxe5 Qxe5 14 Qc5 g6 15 Qe2 Qf5 16 Qf3 Qf6 17 Qe1 0-0 18 Qd3 Qd7 19 Qe5 Qd8 20 Qf3 Qg7 21 h4 Qxh4 22 Qf4 Qf6 23 Qf3 Qg8 24 Qxf8+ Qxf8 25 Qad1 Qg7 26 c4 c6 27 cxd5 cxd5 28 Qc4 Qe7 29 Qb3 a5 30 Qg5 Qa6 31 Qe4 a4 32 Qc4 Qe6 33 Qd2 Qc7 34 Qxf6 Qxf6 35 Qxd5 Qg4 36 f3 Qxd5 37 fxg4 Qg3 38 g5 Qf4 39 Qf1 a3 40 Qxf4 Qxf4 41 Qd4+ 1-0

- 3 -

## Petroff Defence C42

□ GM Nigel Short

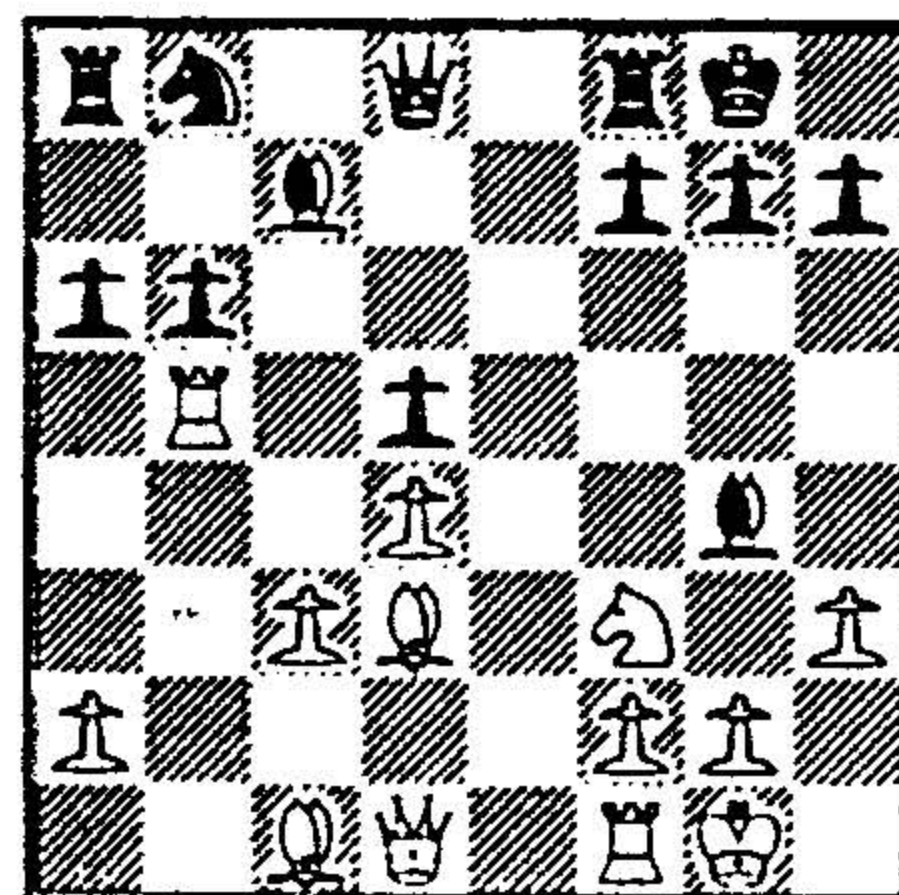
■ GM Boris Gelfand

Brussels (m/7) 1991

1 e4 e5 2 f3 Qc6 3 Qxc5 d6 4



13 f3 e4 5 d4 d5 6 Qd3 Qd6 7  
0-0 0-0 8 c4 c6 9 cxd5 cxd5 10  
e3 e3 11 bxc3 Qg4 12 Bb1 b6  
13 Bb5 Qc7 14 h3 a6



15 hxg4! N

This far-sighted exchange sacrifice gives White more than enough compensation. I doubt that we will see Black defending with 12 ... b6 again in the future.

15 ... axb5 16 Bc2 g6 17 Qh6 Be8  
18 Qxb5 Be4 19 g5 Bb6 20 Qe5  
Bc6 21 f4 Qc6 22 Qxc6 Bxf4 23  
Bxf4 Qxf4 24 Qe5 Qxe5 25 dxe5  
Bxc5 26 a4 Bc1+ 27 Qh2 Be8 28  
Bd3 Bc5+ 29 Bg3 Bxc3 30 Bf4  
Bc7 31 Qg3 Bc3+ 32 Qh2 Bc7  
33 Qg3 Bc3+ 1/2-1/2

- 4 -

#### Grünfeld Exchange

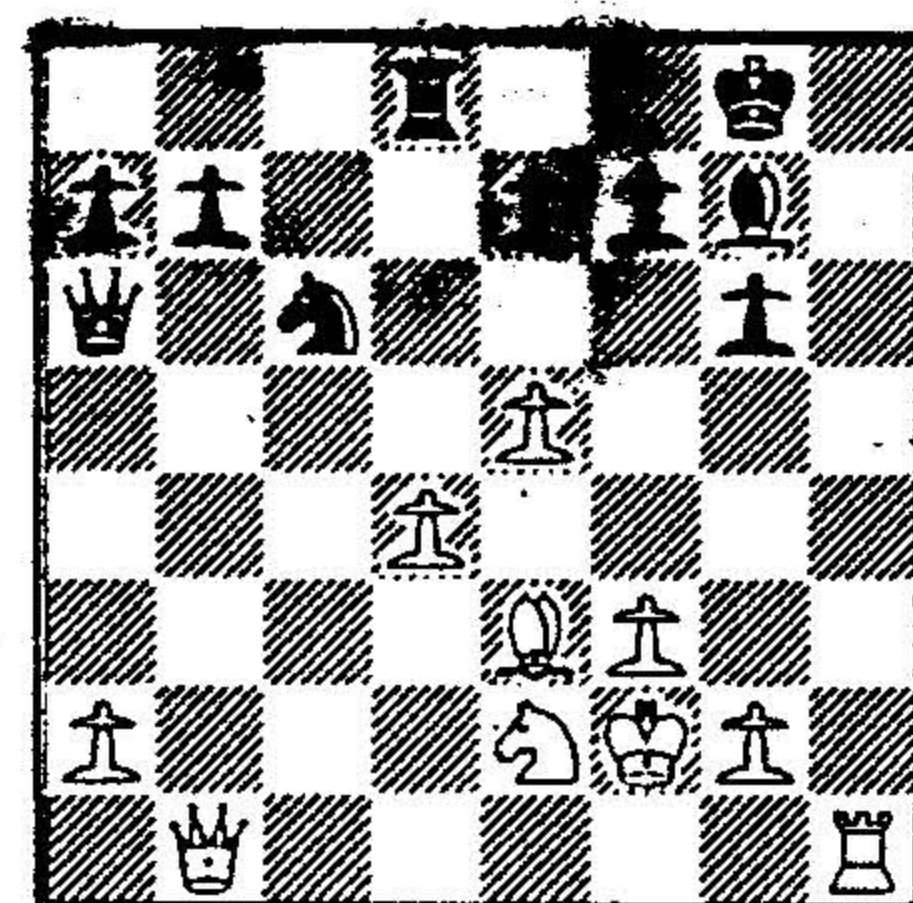
□ GM Alexei Shirov

■ GM Thomas Ernst

London (Lloyds Bank) 1991

An opening novelty on move 22!

1 d4 f6 2 c4 g6 3 Qc3 d5 4 cxd5  
Qxd5 5 e4 Qxc3 6 bxc3 Qg7 7  
Qc4 c5 8 Qe2 Qc6 9 Qe3 0-0 10  
Bc1 cxd4 11 cxd4 Ba5+ 12 Qf1  
Qd7 13 h4 Bf8 14 h5 Qd8 15 f3  
Qb5 16 Qxb5 Bxb5 17 Qf2 Bxc1  
18 Bxc1 Qc6 19 Bb1 Ba6 20 hxg6  
hxg6 21 e5 Bd8



22 a4! N

To understand this remarkable pawn push you need to know the precursor Shirov - I. Gurevich, Santiago 1990, which went 22 Bc4 Bxa2 23 Bh4 Qf8. Now unfortunately 24 Bh7 fails to 24 ... Qxd4!, and instead the game continued 24 Bd1 Qxe5! and Black later won.

Shirov's improvement is now easier to grasp. He wants to continue with the decisive attacking manoeuvre 23 Bc4 Bxa4 24 Bh4 Qf8 25 Bh7 Qxd4 26 Qh6 and wins, as with Black's queen on a4 (instead of a2) ... Bxe2+ is not a threat.

22 ... Qa5?

22 ... Bxa4 23 Bxb7 is strong; the best chance was 22 ... Be8 23 Qh6 Qh8.

23 Bc4 Be8 24 Qh6 Qh8 25 Qg5 Bc6 26 Bh4 1-0

- 5 -

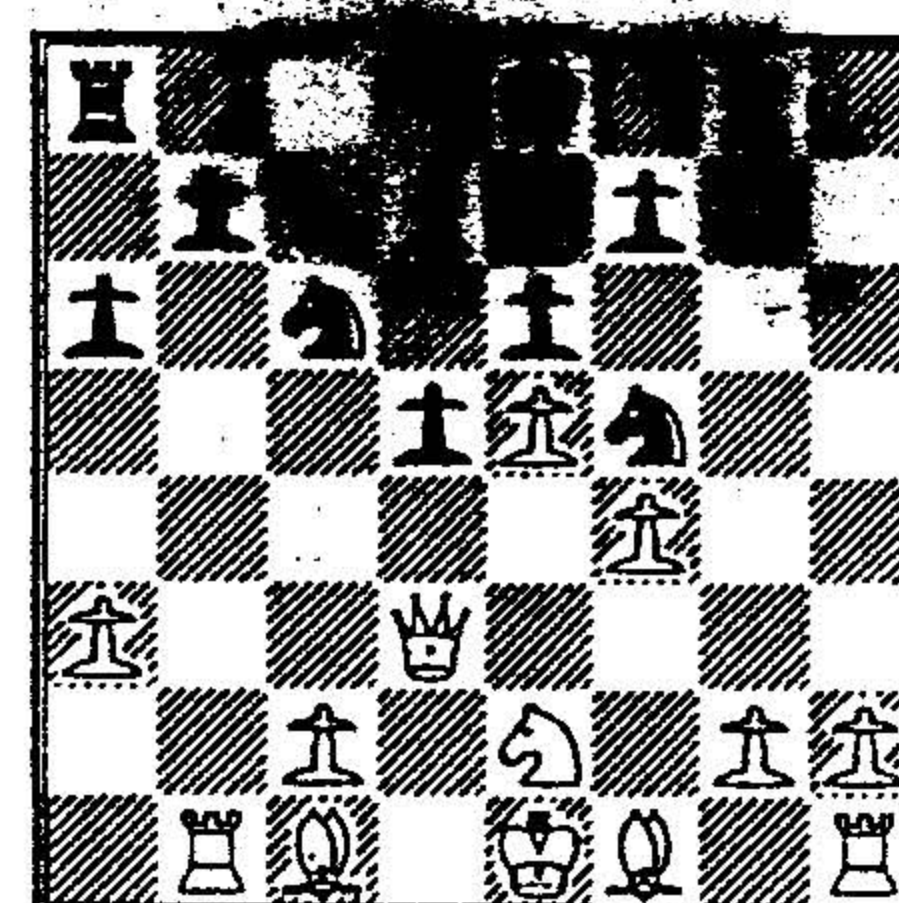
#### French Winawer C18

□ GM Jaan Ehvest

■ GM Predrag Nikolic

Reykjavik 1991

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Qc3 Qb4 4 e5  
c5 5 a3 Qxc3+ 6 hxc3 Qe7 7 Bg4  
cxd4 8 Bxg7 Bg8 9 Bxh7 Bc7 10  
Qe2 Qbc6 11 f4 dxc3 12 Bb3 Qd7  
13 Qxc3 a6 14 Bb1 Qf5 15 Qe2



15 ... Qa7! N

I'm surprised it took until 1991 for this retreat to be recognised, as Jan Timman and I had already analysed the idea back in 1988.

Jan obviously agrees - you can see from the chart he did not award 15 ... Qa7 any points at all.

16 Bc3 Qc6 17 Qd4 Qxd4 18  
Bxd4 Qb5 19 Bc5 d4 20 Bb3 Bb8  
21 Bh3 Be8 22 Bg1 Qc3 23 Qd3  
Qe4 24 Bb6 Bxd6 25 exd6 Qd7  
26 Qb2 Qxg2 27 Bh7 Bcf8 28  
Qf2 Qd5 29 Bxg8 Bxg8 30 Qxc3  
Bg2+ 31 Qf1 dxc3 32 Bxf7+  
Qxd6 33 h4 Bh2 34 Bh7 Qc5 35  
h5 Qd4 36 Qg1 Bg2+ 37 Qf1  
Qe3 38 f5 Bb2 39 Qg1 Bxd3 0-1

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#### Sicilian Rauzer B66

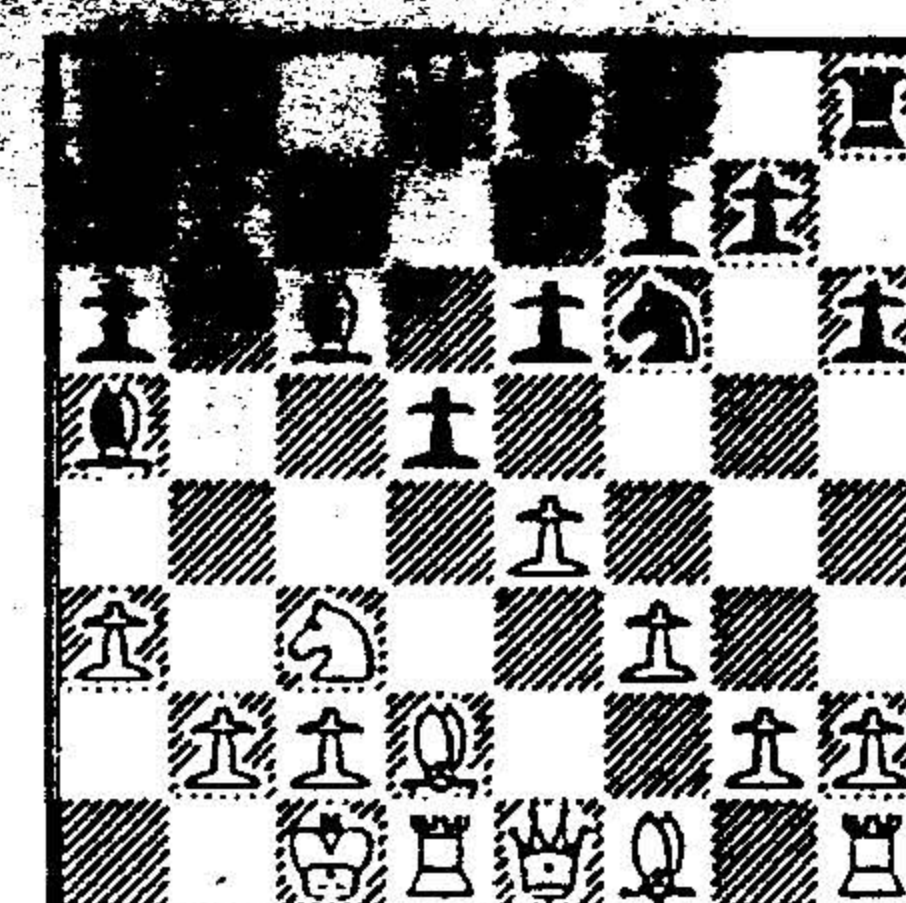
□ GM Igor Glek

■ GM G. Serper

USSR 1991

1 e4 c5 2 Qf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4  
Qxd4 Qf6 5 Qc3 Qc6 6 Qg5 e6 7  
Bd2 a6 8 0-0-0 h6 9 Qf4 Qd7 10  
Qxc6 Qxc6 11 f3 d5 12 Bc1 Qb4  
13 a3 Qa5 14 Qd2

Now older tries were 14 ... dxe4, 14 ... Qc7 and 14 ... Be7, while 14 ... d4!? was played in Wolff-Dlugy, New York 1991.



14 ... b5!? 15 exd5 Qxd5 16 Qd3  
Be8 17 Qb1 0-0 18 Qxd5 Qxd2 19  
Bxd2 Qxd5 20 f4 Bb6 21 f5 exf5  
22 Qxf5 Bcd8 23 Qd3 a5 24 Bhf1  
b4 25 Bf2 Bc6 26 axb4 axb4 27  
b3 Bc3 28 Bd2 Ba8 29 Bxc3 bxc3  
30 Qh7+ Qxh7 31 Bxd5 Ba3 32  
Bd4 Bfa8 33 Ba4 B8xa4 34 bxa4  
Qg6 35 Bf4 f5 36 h4 Qh5 37 g3  
g6 38 Bb4 g5 39 hxg5 hxg5 40  
Be4 f4 41 gxf4 g4 42 f5 g3 43  
Be8 Bxa4 44 f6 Bf4 45 Bg8 Qh4  
46 Bg6 Qh3 47 Qa2 g2 48 Qb3  
Bf3 49 f7 Bxf7 0-1

- 7 -

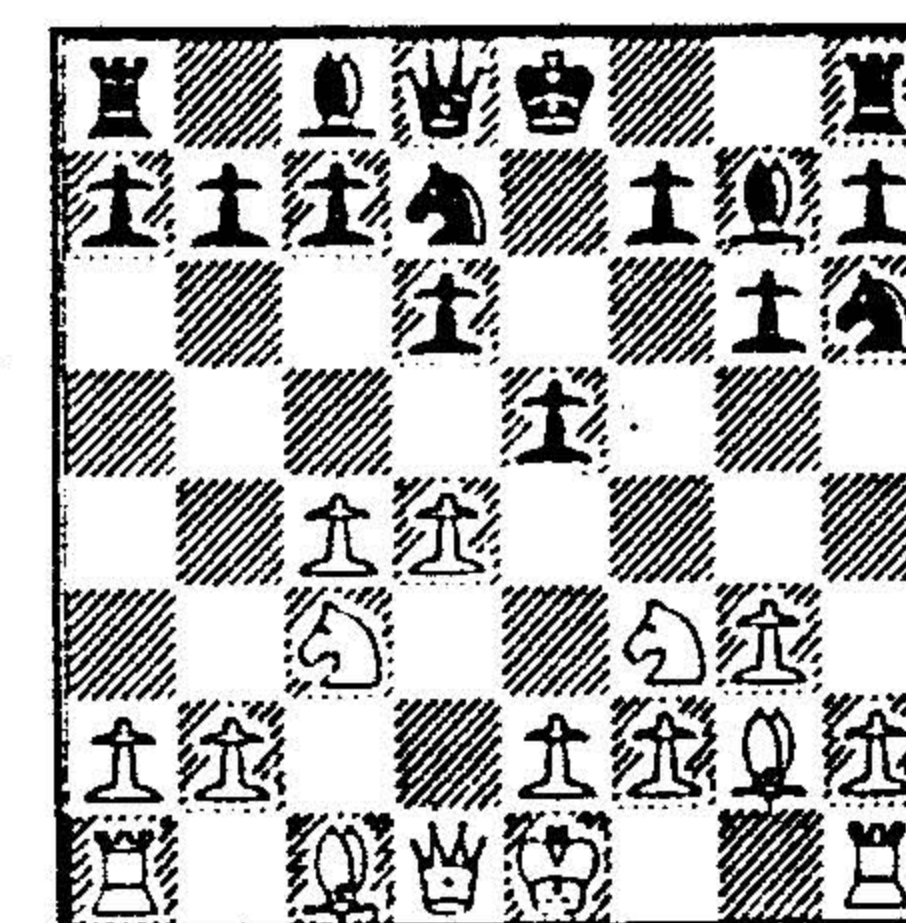
#### English A41

□ GM Vassily Ivanchuk

■ GM Artur Yusupov

Brussels (m/5) 1991

1 c4 e5 2 Qc3 d6 3 g3 g6 4 d4  
Qd7 5 Qg2 Qg7 6 Qf3 Qh6





7 c5! N

Very interesting. If 7 ... exd4 8 Qxh6 Qxh6 9 Qxd4. According to Ivanchuk Black's best is now the simple 7 ... Qf5 8 cxd6 cxd6 9 dxe5 dxe5 when Black has to tolerate a small disadvantage.

7 ... 0-0 8 cxd6 cxd6 9 e4 exd4 10 Qxd4 Qc5 11 0-0 Qg4 12 Bb1 h5 13 Qd5 Qd7 14 h4 Qe6 15 Qxe6 Qxe6 16 Qg5 f6 17 Qf4 Qe5 18 Bc1 Bf7 19 Qd2 Qh7 20 Bc3 Bc8 21 Bfcl Bxc3 22 Bxc3 Qg4 23 Qe3 Qa5 24 b3 f5 25 exf5 Bxf5 26 Qd4 Qf3+ 27 Qxf3 Qxf3 28 Qxg7 1-0

- 8 -

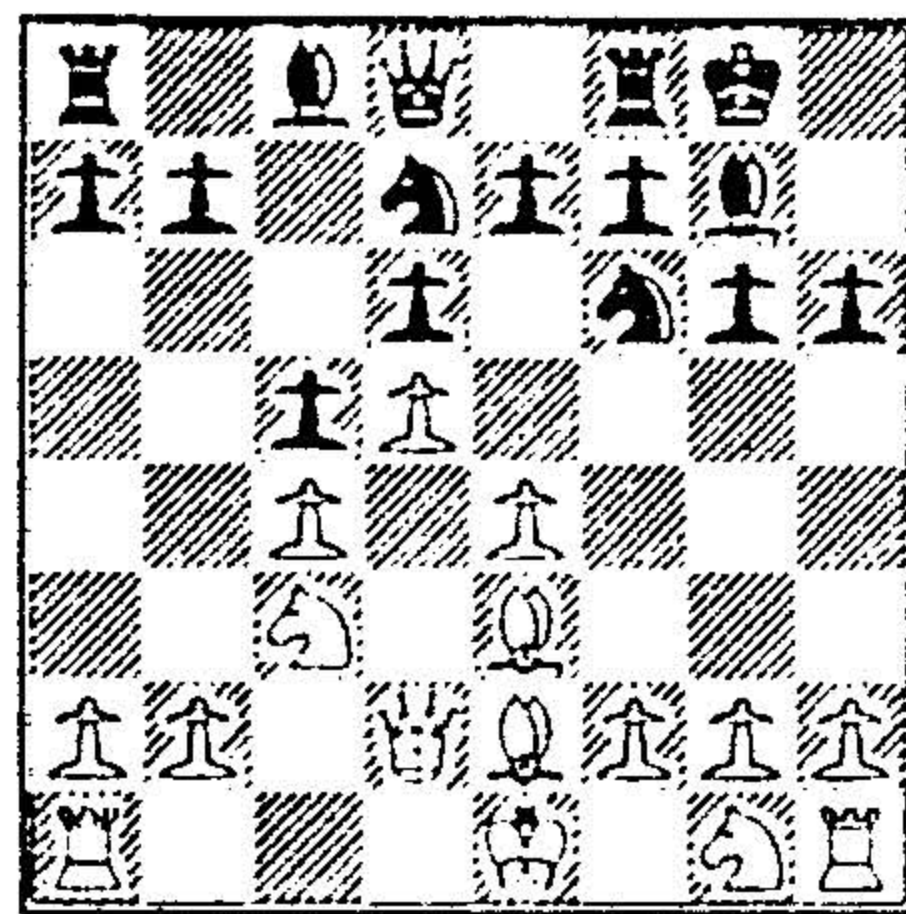
*King's Indian E74*

□ GM V. Moskalenko

■ GM Alexei Shirov

Moscow 1991

1 d4 Qf6 2 c4 g6 3 Qc3 Qg7 4 e4 d6 5 Qe2 0-0 6 Qg5 h6 7 Qe3 Qhd7 8 Qd2 c5 9 d5



9 ... Qa5!? N

According to Shirov this queen move is an idea of the Latvian player Lanka.

10 f3 Qh7 11 Qh3 a6 12 Qf2 b5 13 cxb5 Qb6 14 Qf1 Qd7 15 a4 Qe5 16 b3 axb5 17 Qxb5 f5 18 exf5 Qxf5 19 h3 Qb4 20 f4 Qf7

21 g4 Qe4 22 0-0 Qxb3 23 Qxe4 Qxa1 24 Qdc3 Qxc3 25 Qxc3 Qxa4 26 Qxa4 Bxa4 27 Qxa4 Qxa4 28 f5 g5 29 Qf2 Qb3 30 Bc1 Qe5 31 Bc3 Qf3+ 32 Bxf3 Qxf3 33 Qe1 Qxd5 34 Qxe7+ Bf7 35 Qe8 h5 36 Qg3 hxp4 37 hxp4 Qg7 38 Qd8 Qd4+ 39 Qh2 Qxg4 40 f6+ Bxf6 41 Qe7+ Bf7 42 Qxd6 Qc2+ 43 Qh3 Bf1 0-1

- 9 -

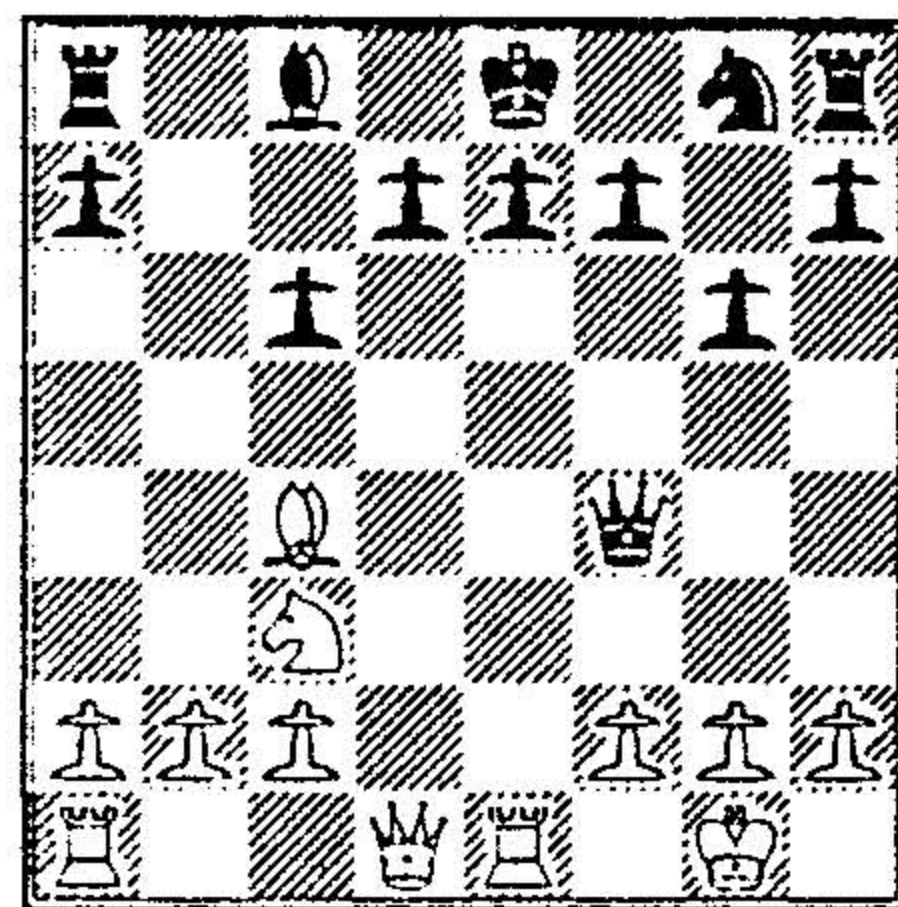
*Sicilian Dragon B34*

□ GM Jan Timman

■ GM Viktor Korchnoi

Brussels (m/5) 1991

1 e4 c5 2 Qf3 Qc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Qf6 5 Qc3 g6 6 Qxc6 bxc6 7 e5 Qg8 8 Qc4 Qg7 9 Qf4 Qa5 10 0-0 Qxe5 11 Qxe5 Qxe5 12 Bc1 Qf4



13 Bc4! N

This improvement was actually a suggestion in the notes of the old game Milicevic - Rajkovic, Yugoslavia 1976, which turned out well for Black after 13 Qe4?! Qf8! 14 Bc3 d5.

13 ... Qf6 14 Bc3 d5 15 Qxd5 Qf5 16 Qf3 h5 17 Qc2 Bb8 18 Qa4 Qf8 19 Bc1 Bb4 20 b3 Qg7 21 Bc3 Qg4 22 Qc3 Qxf3 23 Qxf3 Qxf3 24 Bxf3 e6 25 Bd1 Qf6 26 c4 Bbb8 27 Bfd3 h4 28 f3 g5 29

c4 Bbb8 27 Bfd3 h4 28 f3 g5 29 Qc5 a5 30 Qf2 g4 31 Bb6 Bbc8 32 Qe3 h3 33 Bg1 hxg2 34 Bxg2 Bb3 35 Bg3 Bxh2 36 fxg4 Bxa2 37 g5 Qh5 38 Bf3 Bg2 39 Bb7 Qg6 40 Bxf7 Bxg5 41 Qe4 1/2-1/2

- 10 -

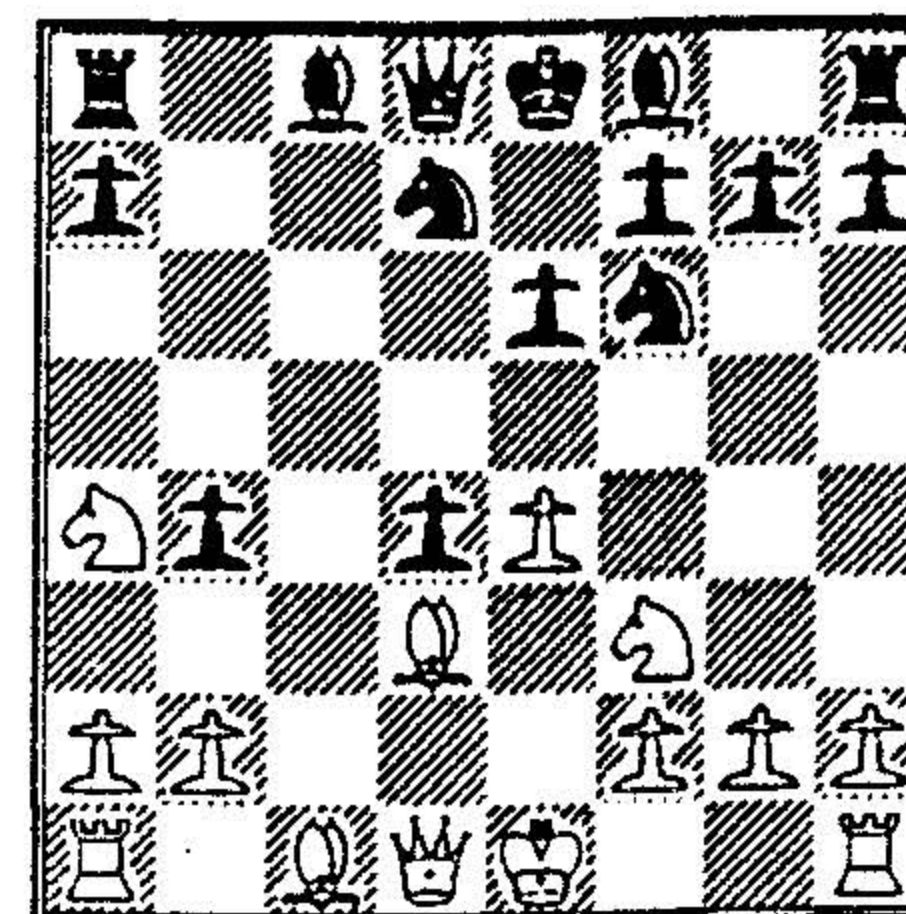
*Semi-Slav D47*

□ IM Peter Wells

■ IM Stuart Conquest

London 1991

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Qf3 Qf6 4 Qc3 e6 5 e3 Qbd7 6 Qd3 dxc4 7 Qxc4 b5 8 Qd3 b4 9 Qa4 c5 10 e4 cxd4



11 Qb5! N

A critical alternative to the ineffectual 11 e5 and 11 Qxd4. But probably the move that impressed the judges was Peter's spectacular 14 Qf4!! three moves later.

11 ... Qa5 12 Qc6 Bb8 13 0-0 e5 14 Qf4!!

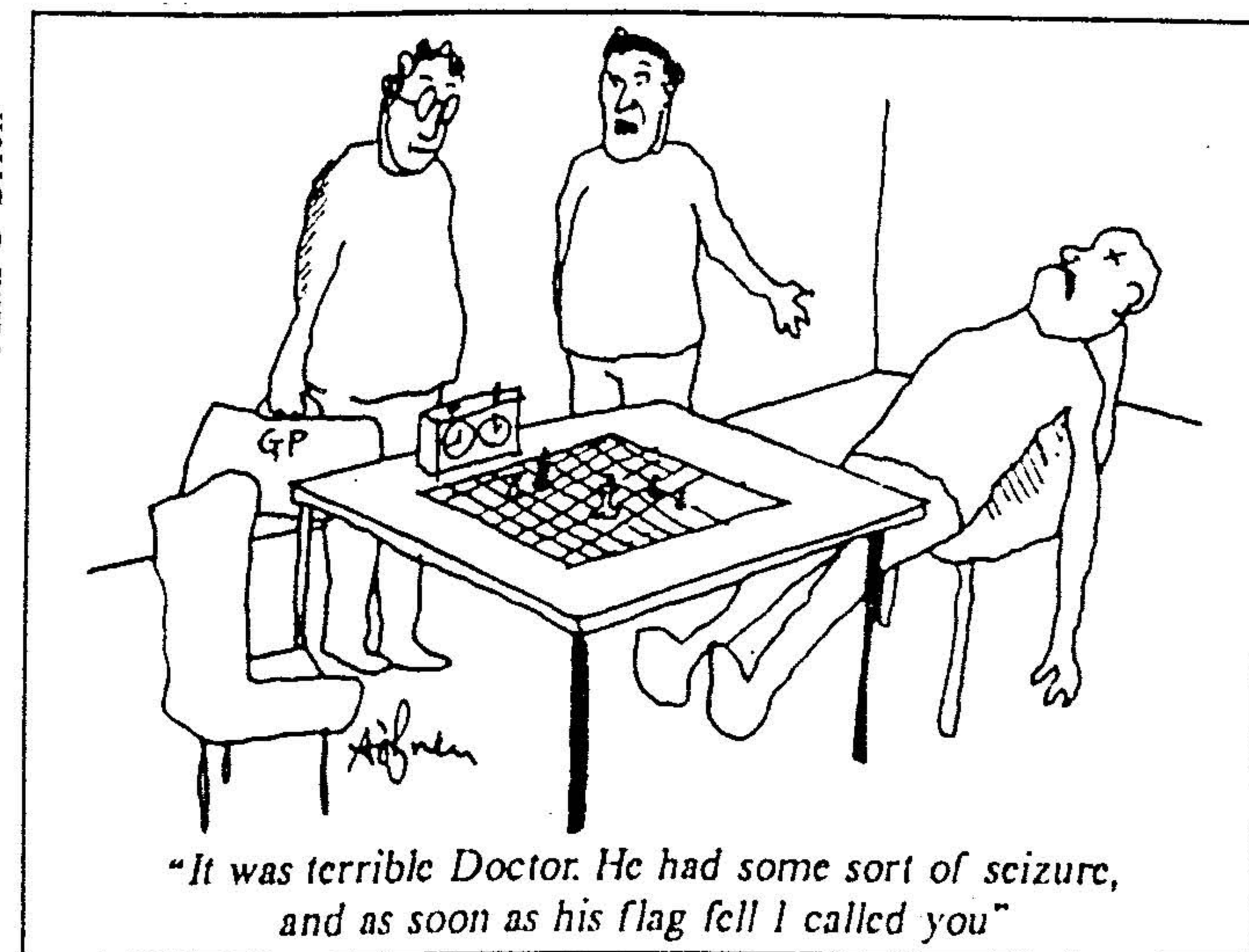
An amazing move, based on the idea 14 ... exf4 15 e5 Qd5 16 Qxd4! with a tremendous attack.

14 ... Qd6 15 Qg3 Qc7 16 Bc1 0-0 17 b3 Bb8 18 Qxd7 Qxd7 19 Qxd4 Qf6 20 Qc6 Bxd1 21 Bfxd1 Qb5 22 Qxb8 Qg4 23 Bxc7 Qxd1 24 Bc8+ Qe8 25 Qc6 h5 26 h4 Qh7 27 Bxe8 Qxc6 28 Bxe5 f6 29 Bc7 Qg4 30 f3 Qe6 31 Bxa7 Qg6 32 Qh2 Qf7 33 Bc7 Qb5 34 Qc5 Qe2 35 Qd7 Qh6 36 Qxf6 gxf6 37 Bxf7 Qxa2 38 Bxf6+ Qg7 39 Bb6 Qxb3 40 Qd6 1-0

Black actually lost on time, but the position is gone in any case.

\* For further information on Informator 53 see this month's Book Review pages by Bernard Cafferty.

Alan O'Brien





# OPENING THEORY: Nimzo-Indian 4 ♗c2

Paul Motwani investigates assaults on the undefended d-pawn

The Nimzo-Indian Defence, identified by the moves 1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♗b4, has had a very sound reputation ever since its introduction by the great grandmaster Aron Nimzowitsch (1886-1935) around 80 years ago. 3 ... ♗b4 already gives Black a slight lead in development and the possibility ... ♗xc3+ to saddle White with doubled c-pawns after the recapture bxc3. Keeping a healthy pawn structure is one of White's aims in the increasingly popular Capablanca Variation 4 ♗c2. However, this early excursion by White's queen leaves the pawn on d4 unprotected. Therefore it is actually extremely logical for Black to immediately assault the undefended d-pawn!

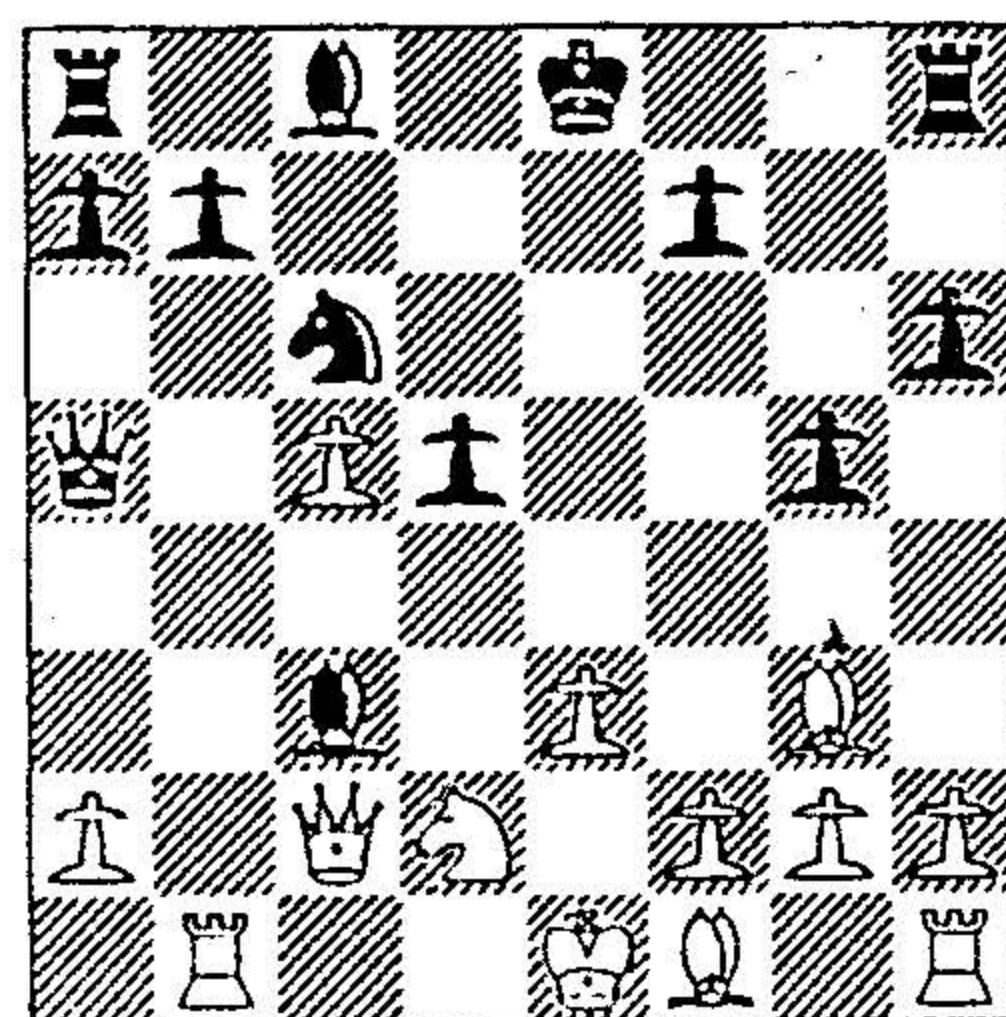
After 4 ♗c2, I would like to concentrate mainly on

(a) 4 ... ♗c6

(b) 4 ... c5

Just before we do that, I feel that the 10th game of the Fischer - Spassky match deserves special mention because Fischer's choice of 4 ... d5 and his subsequent play in the game, were highly interesting. After 4 ... d5 5 cxd5 exd5 (5 ... ♗xd5 6 ♗f3 0-0 7 ♗d2 ♗xc3 8 ♗xc3 occurred in I. Sokolov - Romanishin, Barcelona 1992. Black then produced the novelty 8 ... b6 but failed to equalise after 9 ♗d2! with the idea f3 then e4) 6 ♗g5 h6 7 ♗h4 c5 8 dxc5 ♗c6 9 e3 g5 10 ♗g3 ♗a5 (Spassky as Black against Kasparov at Linares 1990 tried 10 ... ♗e4. The World Champion played 11 ♗f3, when 11 ... ♗a5 would transpose into Spassky - Fischer, but instead 11 ... ♗f6 was met by

the powerful 12 ♗b5! ♗xc3 13 ♗xc6+ bxc6 14 a3! g4 15 ♗e5! ♗e4+ 16 axb4 ♗f5 17 ♗xh8 gxf3 18 ♗gl! and White went on to win) 11 ♗f3 ♗e4 12 ♗d2 ♗xc3 13 bxc3 ♗xc3 14 ♗b1



14 ... ♗xc5 and after 15 ♗b5 ♗a3 16 ♗b3 (16 ♗xd5 0-0 threatens 17 ... ♗b4) 16 ... ♗xd2+ 17 ♗xd2 ♗a5 Black stood very well. Clearly anyone who answers the Nimzo-Indian with 4 ♗c2 as White must study 4 ... d5 carefully. Black too should be aware of 7 ♗xf6 which tends to lead to far quieter positions than Spassky's 7 ♗h4, whereas the earlier possibility 5 a3 can result in wild complications. Now we focus our attention on (a) 4 ... ♗c6

Nimzo-Indian E33

□ GM Glenn Flear

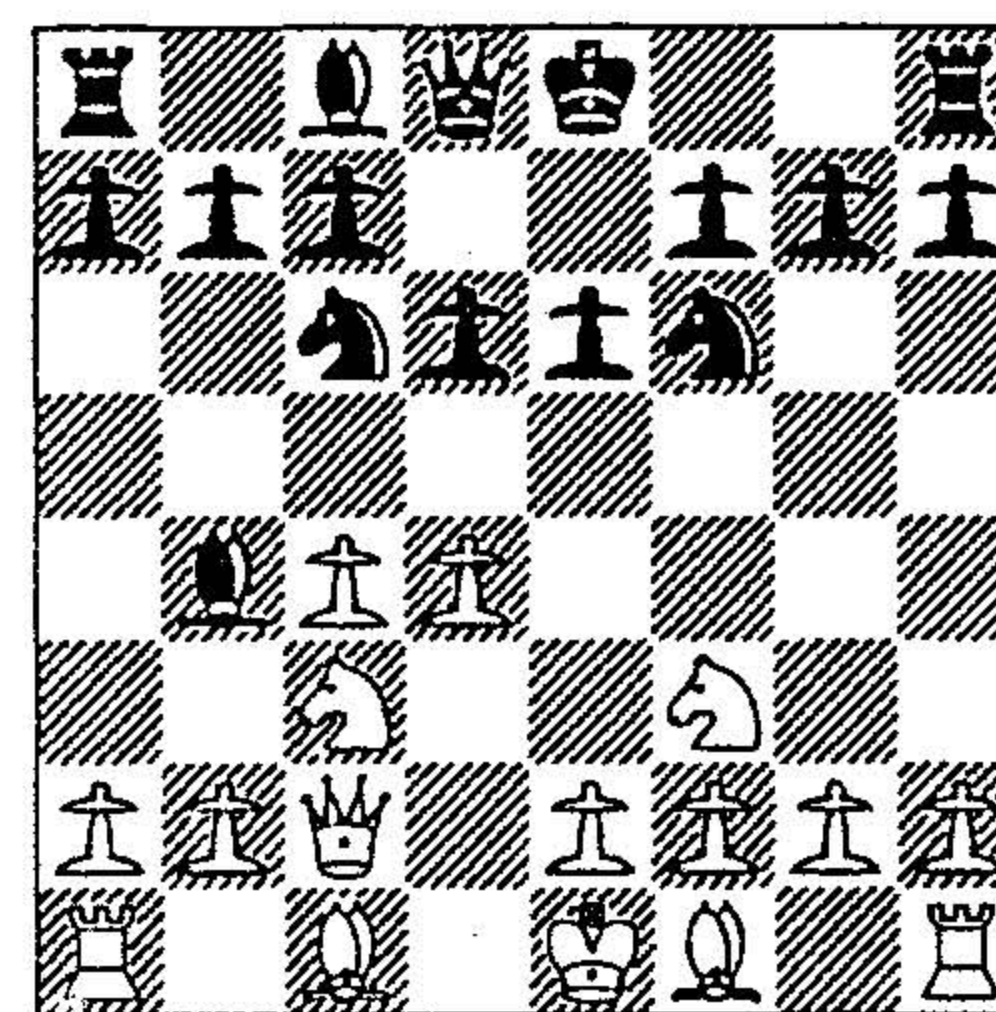
■ (Future!) GM Paul Motwani  
Dundee 1991

1 d4 e6 2 c4 ♗f6 3 ♗c3 ♗b4 4 ♗c2 ♗c6

This move can have great surprise value since, although it is per-

fectly playable, it is rarely seen. In *Formators 50-54* contain a total of 50 complete games in which 4 ... 0-0 was played compared with only one game involving 4 ... ♗c6! 5 e3

After 5 ♗f3 d6

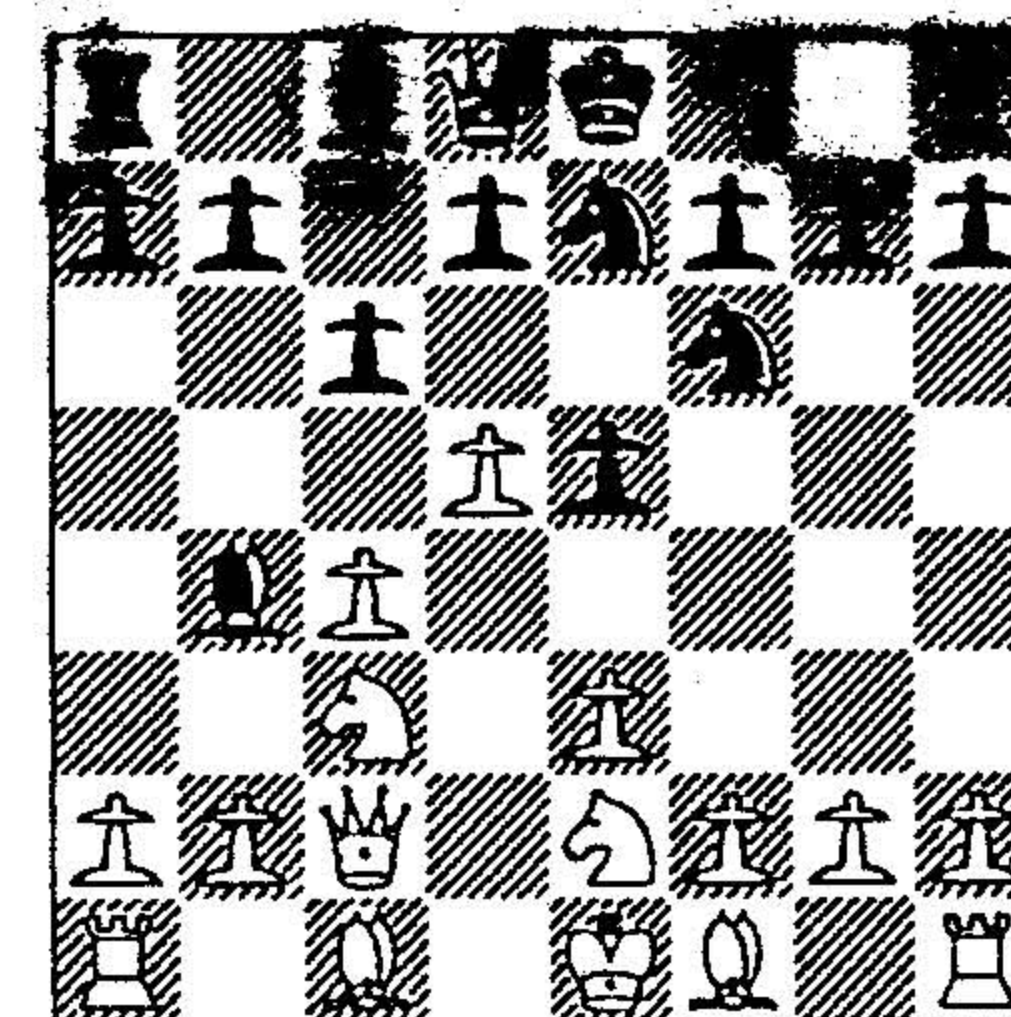


we have:

i) 6 a3 ♗xc3+ 7 ♗xc3 0-0 8 b4 e5 9 dxe5 ♗xe5 10 ♗xe5 dxe5 11 ♗b2 (11 ♗xe5 is risky with White lagging in development. For example, 11 ... ♗e8 12 ♗b2 ♗e6 13 e3 ♗e4 14 ♗e2 ♗g5 15 0-0 ♗ad8 16 f3 ♗h3 17 ♗d1 ♗d2! and its all over) 11 ... ♗e8 12 e3 ♗f5 13 f3 I. Farago - Motwani, Forli 1991 when Tony Miles' post-mortem suggestion of 13 ... ♗d7 would have been comfortable for Black (½-½ in 39 moves). ii) 6 ♗g5 0-0 7 e3 e5 (7 ... h6) 8 d5 ♗b8 9 ♗d2 a5 10 ♗e2 ♗a6 11 ♗de4 ♗f5! 12 ♗d3 ♗xe4 13 ♗xe4 ♗xc3+ 14 bxc3 h6 15 ♗h4 g5 16 ♗g3 ♗xe4 17 ♗xe4 f5 18 ♗c2 e4 19 h4 ♗f6 20 hxg5 hxg5 21 ♗h3 ♗g6! 22 ♗d2 f4 23 exf4 gxf4 24 ♗c1 ♗c5 25 ♗b2 fxg3 26 f3 (26 ♗xg3 ♗xg3 27 fxg3 ♗f2!) 26 ... ♗d3+ 27 ♗a3 ♗f2 28 ♗h4 ♗g5 0-1 Flear - Buchanan, Perth 1990.

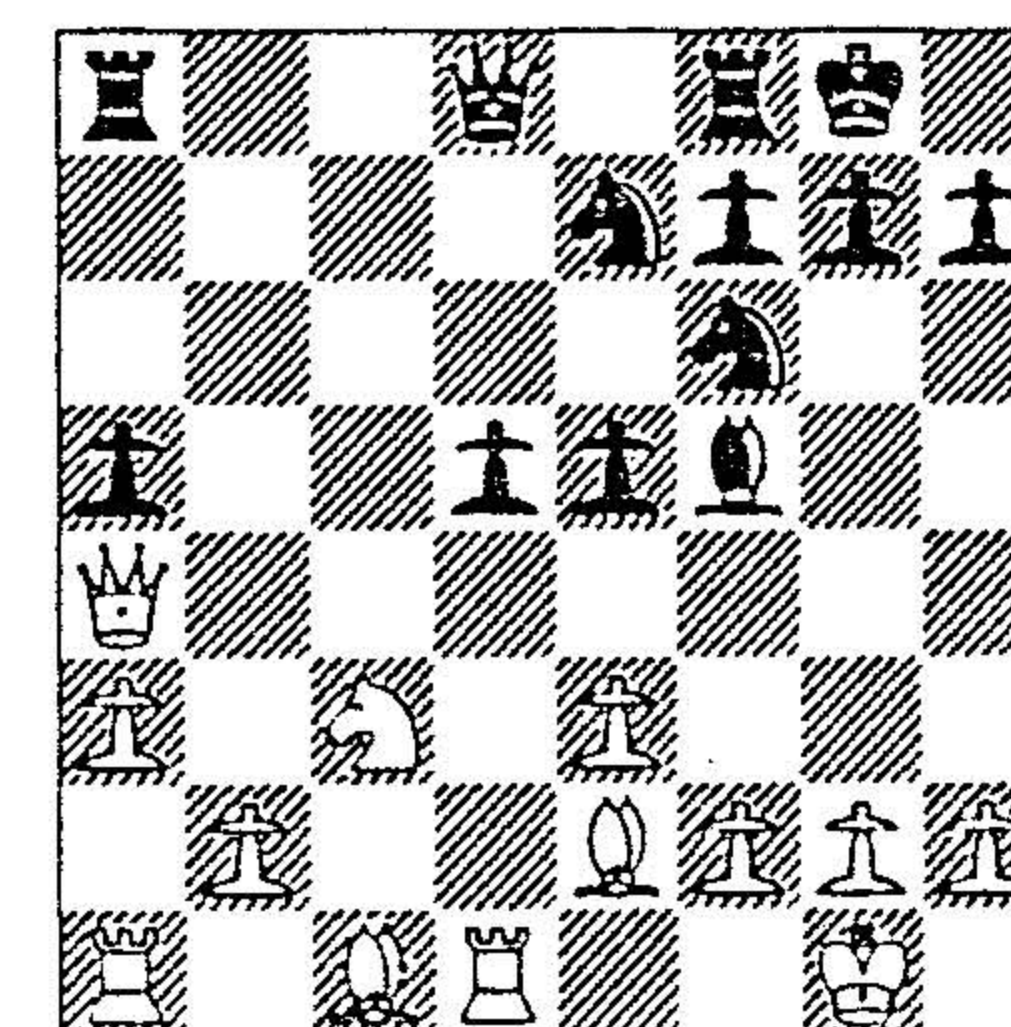
iii) 6 ♗d2 0-0 7 a3 ♗xc3 8 ♗xc3 was Kramnik - Rashkovsky, USSR

Championship 1991 when ♗ ... ♗e7 intending ... e5 is more natural than 8 ... ♗b6 played in the game. 5 ... e5 6 ♗d5 ♗e7 7 ♗e3 c6!? N



8 a3 ♗xc3+ 9 ♗xc3 d6

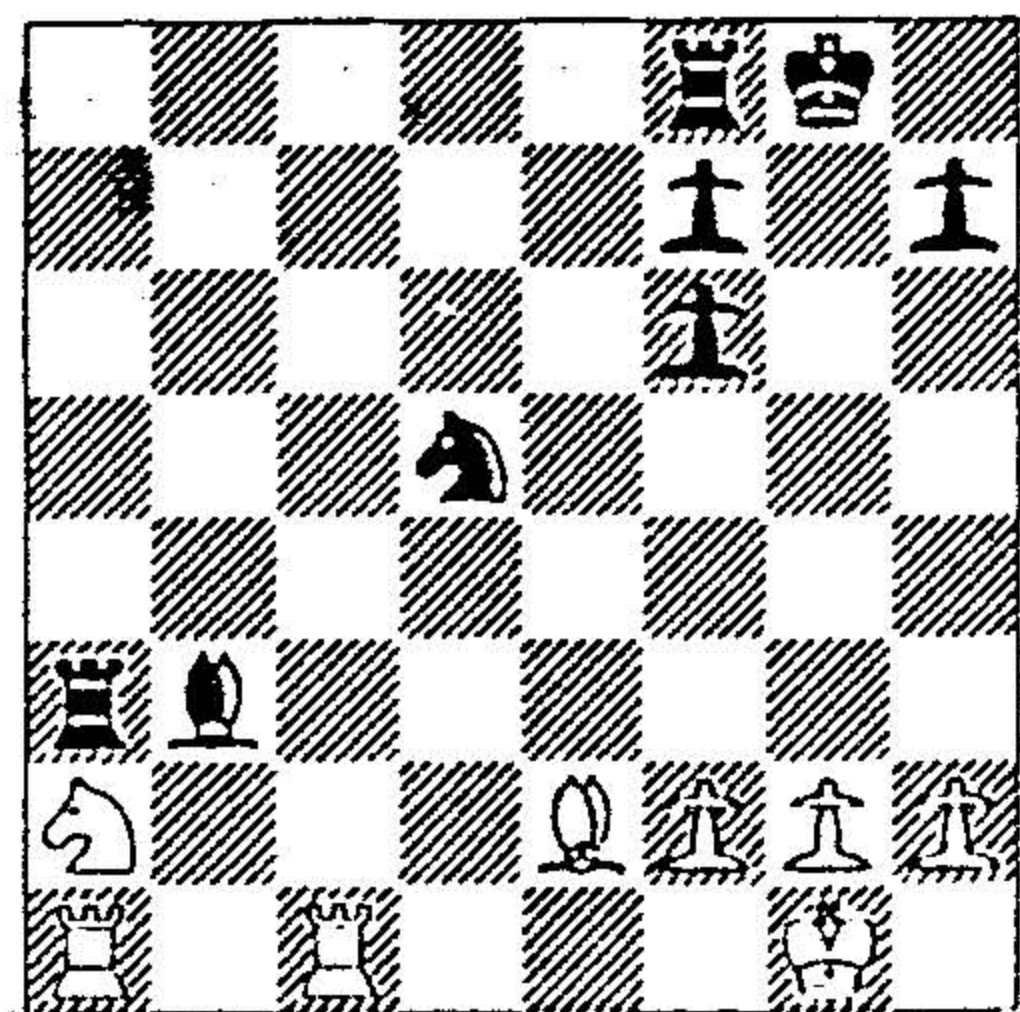
Tempting is 9 ... cxd5 10 cxd5 ♗exd5 11 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 12 ♗e4? ♗a5+! 13 ♗d2 ♗f6 but 12 ♗c5! favours White) 10 dxc6 (White wants to save time by not using a tempo for 10 e4, but capturing on c6 allows Black dangerous, mobile central pawns) 10 ... bxc6 11 ♗e2 0-0 12 0-0 d5 13 cxd5 cxd5 14 ♗d1 ♗f5 15 ♗a4 a5!



16 ♗d2 ♗b6 17 b4 d4 18 exd4 exd4 19 ♗a2 axb4 20 ♗xb4 ♗a7 21 ♗g5 ♗ed5 22 ♗xd4 ♗xd4 23 ♗xd4 ♗xa3 24 ♗dd1 ♗c2



24 ... ♖fa8 25 ♕f3! ♖xa2 26 ♖xa2 ♖xa2 27 ♕xf6!  
25 ♖dc1 ♕b3 26 ♕xf6 gxf6



27 ♖b4!

The only way to draw.

27 ... ♖xa1 28 ♖xa1 ♖xb4 29 ♖b1 ♖e8 30 ♕f1 ♕c2 31 ♖xb4 ♖e1 32 ♖d4 ♖d1 ½-½  
32 ... ♕d1 33 f3 ♕e2 34 ♖f2!

If you do not like obstructing Black's c-pawn with 4 ... ♖c6 then have a look at (b) 4 ... c5.

#### Nimzo-Indian E39

□ GM Gennadi Timoshchenko

■ IM Keith Arkell

Isle of Man 1992

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♕b4 4 ♖c2 c5 5 dxc5 0-0

5 ... ♖c6 6 ♖f3 ♖a5 7 ♕d2 ♖xc5 8 e3 d5 9 a3 ♕xc3 10 ♖xc3 is slightly better for White because of the bishop pair in a fairly open position. Similarly, 5 ... ♖a6 6 a3 and now:

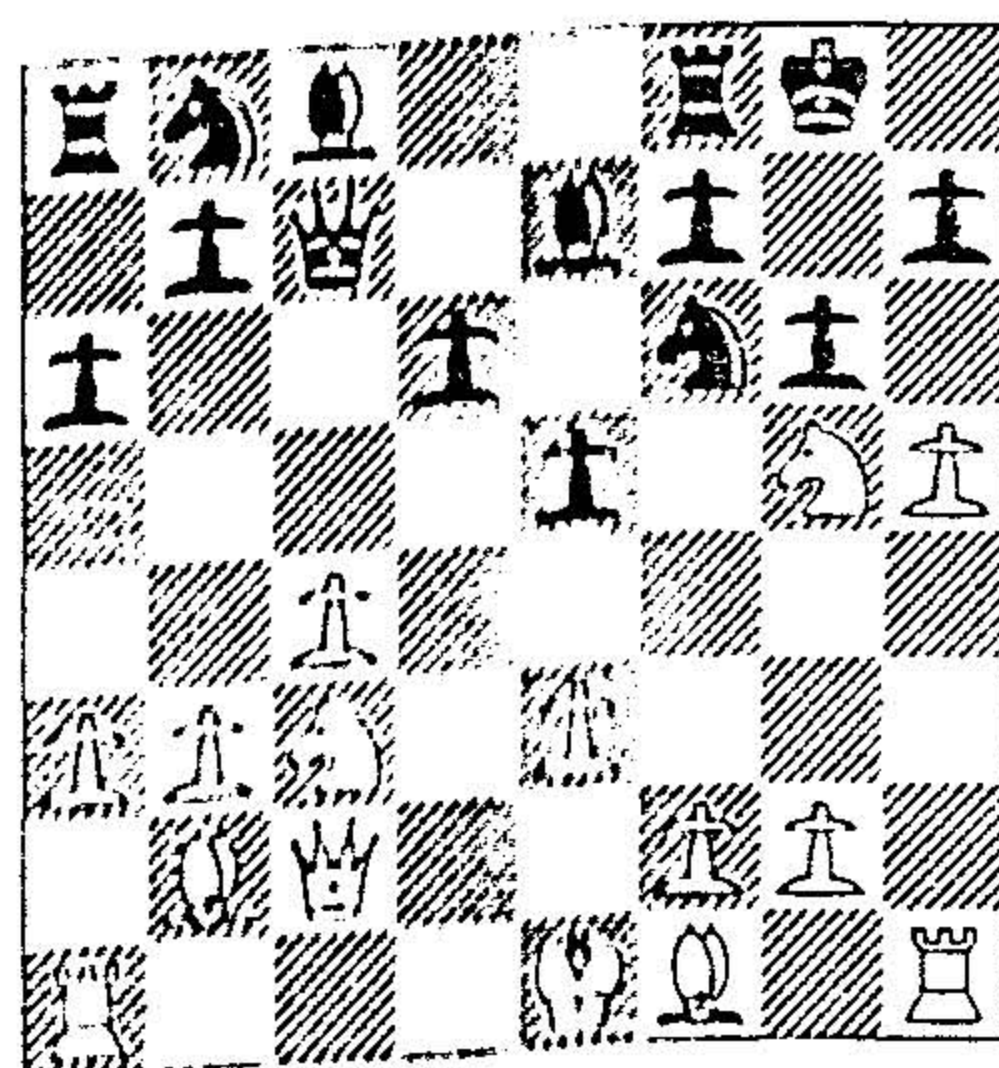
i) 6 ... ♖a5 7 ♕d2 ♖xc5 8 ♖cl ♕xc3 9 ♕xc3 ♖a4 10 b4 ♖xc2 11 ♖xc2 ♖a4 12 ♕d4 b6 13 e3 d6 14 f4 G. Flear - K. Arkell, Dublin 1991 or

ii) 6 ... ♕xc3+ 7 ♖xc3 ♖xc5 8 b4 both favour White, although some players prefer ♖f3 in the latter variation because 8 b4 ♖ce4 9 ♖d4 d5 10 c5 b6 (10 ... h6 11 f3 ♖g5 is not so wild) 11 f3 bxc5 12 bxc5 ♖a5+ 13 ♖b4 ♖c7 14 fxe4 ♖b8 15 ♖a4+ ♕d7 16 c6 0-0 is so sharp. 5 ... ♖c7 is another alternative to castling, but I recommend 5 ... 0-0, as in the game, for Black.

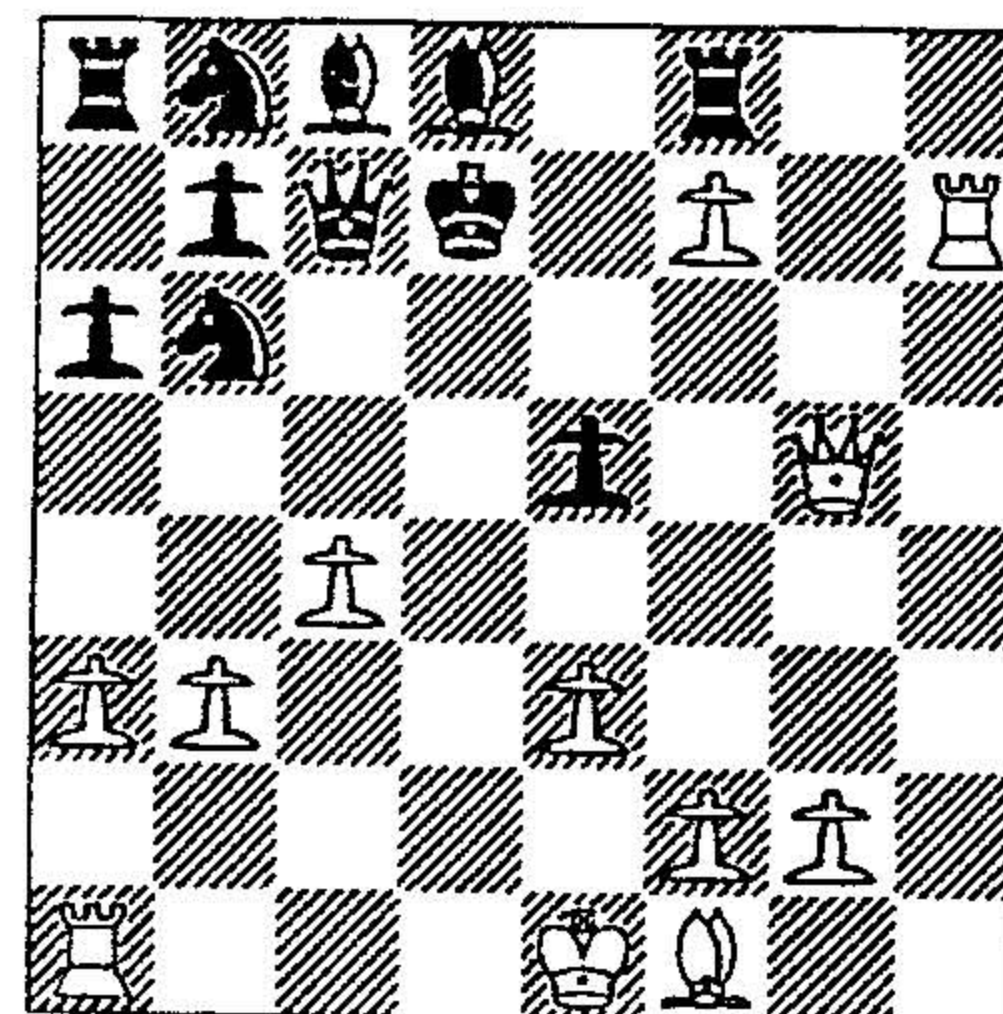
6 ♖f3

6 ♕g5 ♖a6 7 ♖f3 merely transposes into the game, and 7 a3 ♕xc3+ 8 ♖xc3 ♖xc5 is also comfortable for Black after 9 ♕xf6 ♖xf6 10 ♖xf6 gxf6 11 b4 ♖a4 12 c3 b6 13 ♖f3 ♕a6 14 ♖d2 ♕b7 15 ♕d3 ♖ac8 which is identical to Kozul - Kasparov, Belgrade 1989 except that Black's h-pawn was already on h6 there. Note that 9 f3? in this variation is not only innocuous but is actually an error in view of 9 ... ♖fe4! 10 ♕xd8 ♖xc3 11 ♕e7 ♖b3. However, 6 a3 is a major alternative to 6 ♖f3. Some recent examples:

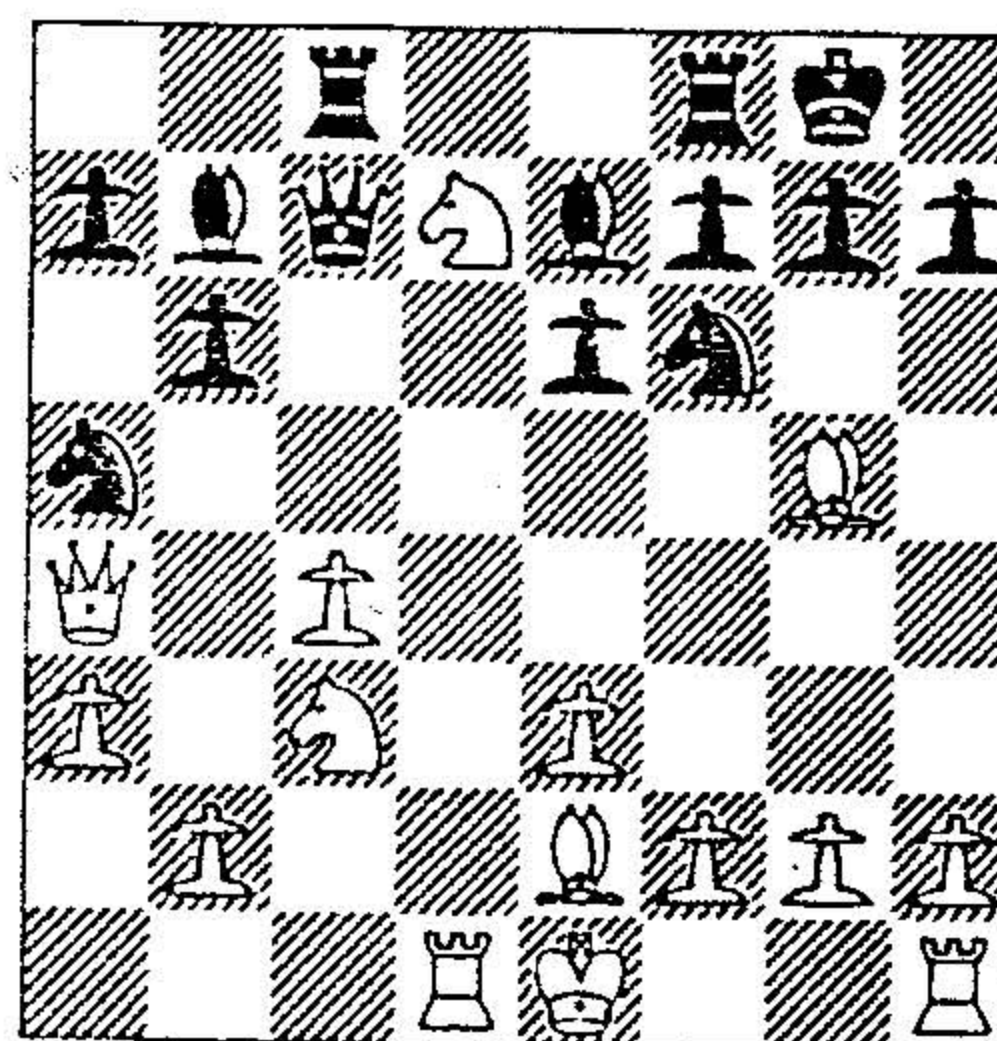
6 ... ♕xc5 7 ♖f3 (7 ♕g5? ♕xf2+!) 7 ... ♖c6 (7 ... ♖b6 8 e3 ♕c7 9 b3 a6 10 ♕b2 ♖c7 11 ♖g5 g6 12 h4 d6 13 h5 c5



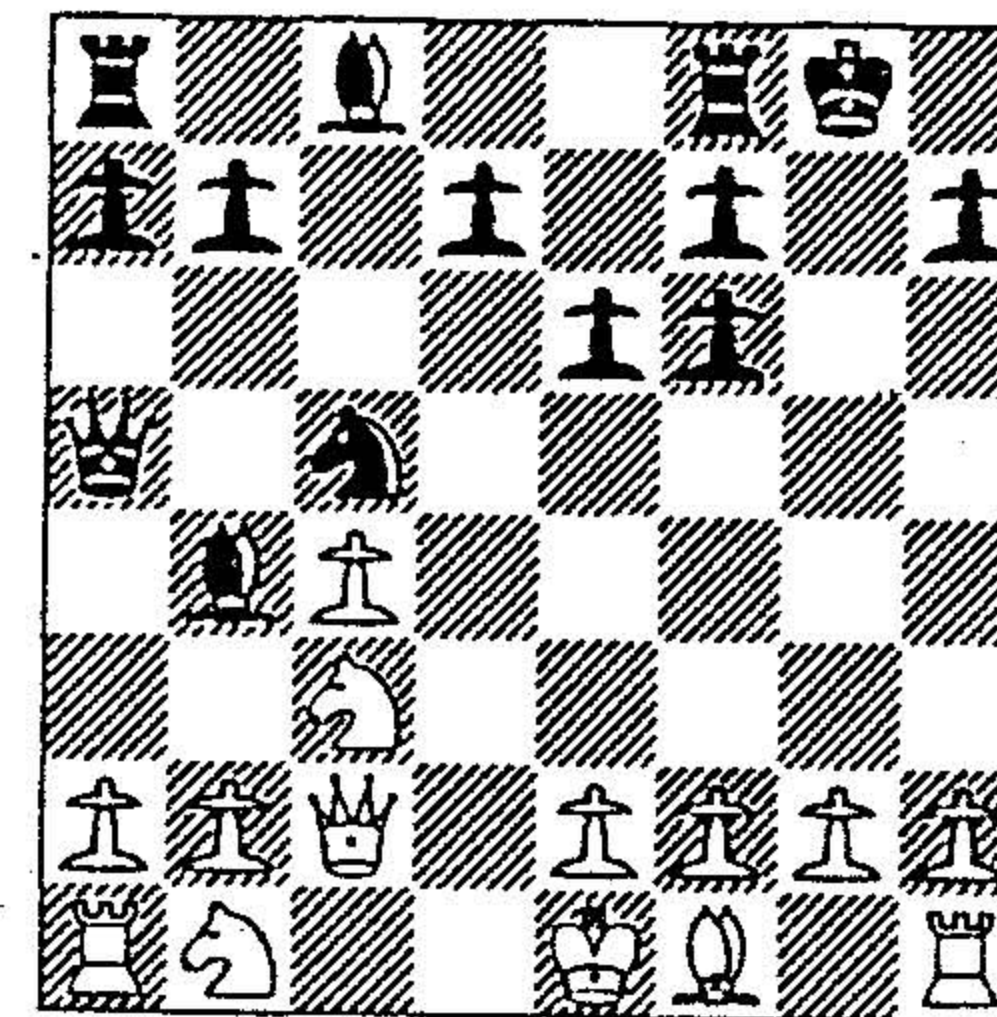
14 ♖xh7! ♖xh7 15 hxc6+ ♖g7 16 ♖d5 ♖xd5 17 ♖h7+ ♖f6 18 gxf7 ♕d8 19 ♖e4 ♖b6 20 ♕xe5+! dxc5 21 ♖h4+ ♖e6 22 ♖g4+ ♖e7 23 ♖g5+ ♖d7



24 ♖d1+ ♖d6 25 ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 26 ♖h6+ ♕e6 27 ♖f5 ♖d7 28 ♖xe6+ ♖c7 29 g3 a5 30 c5 ♖c8 31 ♖g6 ♖a6 32 ♖xa6 ♖xa6 33 ♖g8 ♖c7 34 ♖f5 ♕e7 35 b4 axb4 36 axb4 ♖d5 37 ♖e6 1-0 was Crouch - K. Arkell, Isle of Man 1992, for which Colin deservedly won the Best Game Prize) 8 ♕g5 b6 9 ♖d1 ♕e7 10 e3 ♕b7 11 ♕e2 ♖c8 12 ♖a4?! (12 0-0 ♖a5 13 ♖d2 was safer) 12 ... ♖a5! 13 ♖e5 (13 ♕xf6 ♕xf6 14 ♖xd7 ♕xc3+ 15 bxc3 ♖f6 is excellent for Black) 13 ... ♖c7! 14 ♖xd7?

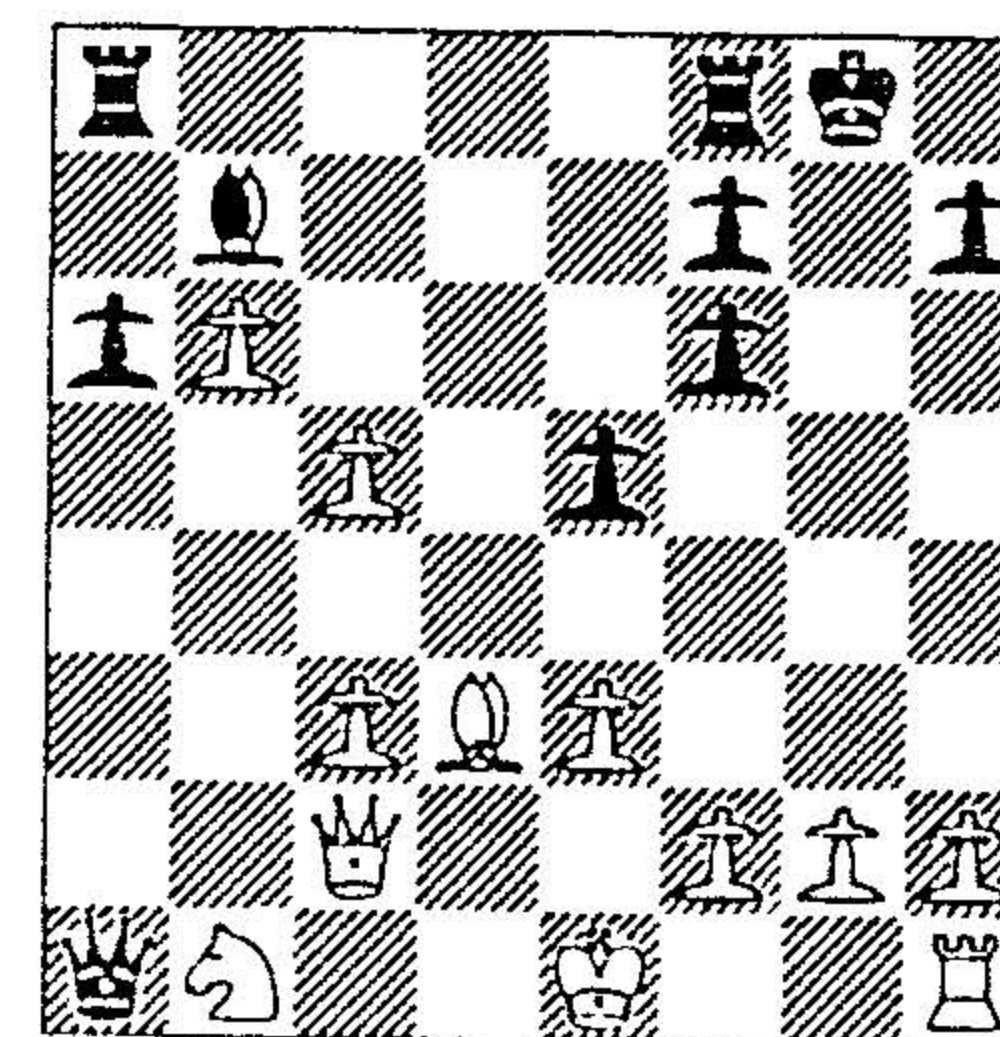


14 ... ♕c6 15 ♖b5 ♕xd7 16 b4 ♖xc4 17 ♕xf6 ♕xf6 18 ♕xc4 ♕c3+! 0-1 was G. Flear - Kozulwani also in the Isle of Man this year.  
6 ... ♖a6 7 ♕g5 ♖xc5 8 ♖d2 ♖a5 9 ♕xf6 gxf6 10 ♖b4



10 ... b5!?

A deviation from the quieter 10 ... ♖a4 11 e3 b6 12 ♕e2 ♕b7 13 0-0 ♕xc3 14 ♖xc3 ♖xc3 15 bxc3 ♖g5 16 g3 ♖h8 17 ♖fd1 ♕c6 18 ♖d4 f5 19 ♖d1 ... ½-½ Timoshchenko - Davies, Lloyds Bank 1992.  
11 cxb5 d5 12 e3 c5 13 a3 d4 14 axb4 ♖xa1 15 bxc5 dxc3 16 bxc3 a6 17 b6 ♕b7 18 ♕d3



18 ... ♖a5 19 ♕xh7+ ♖g7 20 ♕e4 ♕xe4 21 ♖xe4 ♖xc5 22 ♖g4+ ½-½



**S**atranç oyununun, sadece büyük şehir kulüplerinde, satranç merkezlerinde, bu konuya uzun yıllar emek vermiş, yaşları her ne olursa olsun üst düzey oyuncular tarafından oynanmadığını biliyoruz. Satrancın bir spor, bir eğlence aracı olarak, dernekleşmemiş, kulüpleşmemiş, bir yapılaşma oluşturulamamış il ve ilçelerimizde ise öğretmen evlerinde, ilkokul, ortaokul, lise ve üniversitelerde, bazı iş yerlerinde öğle paydoslarında, çocuk kulüplerinde, satranca meraklı ailelerin evlerinde, seyahatlerde, bazen boş zamanlarda fazlaca iddialı olmadan, basit ama düşündürten, zevk alarak ama yenilince biraz üzülerek oynandığını biliyoruz.

İşte bu sayfamız, satranç sporunu üst düzeyde ele almayan, konuya çok iddialı yaklaşmayanların köşesidir. Bu sayfada hem kendinizi, hem satranca meraklı arkadaşlarınızı küçük bir sınavdan geçirebilirsiniz.

## OKUYUCU İÇİN ÖNEMLİ NOT

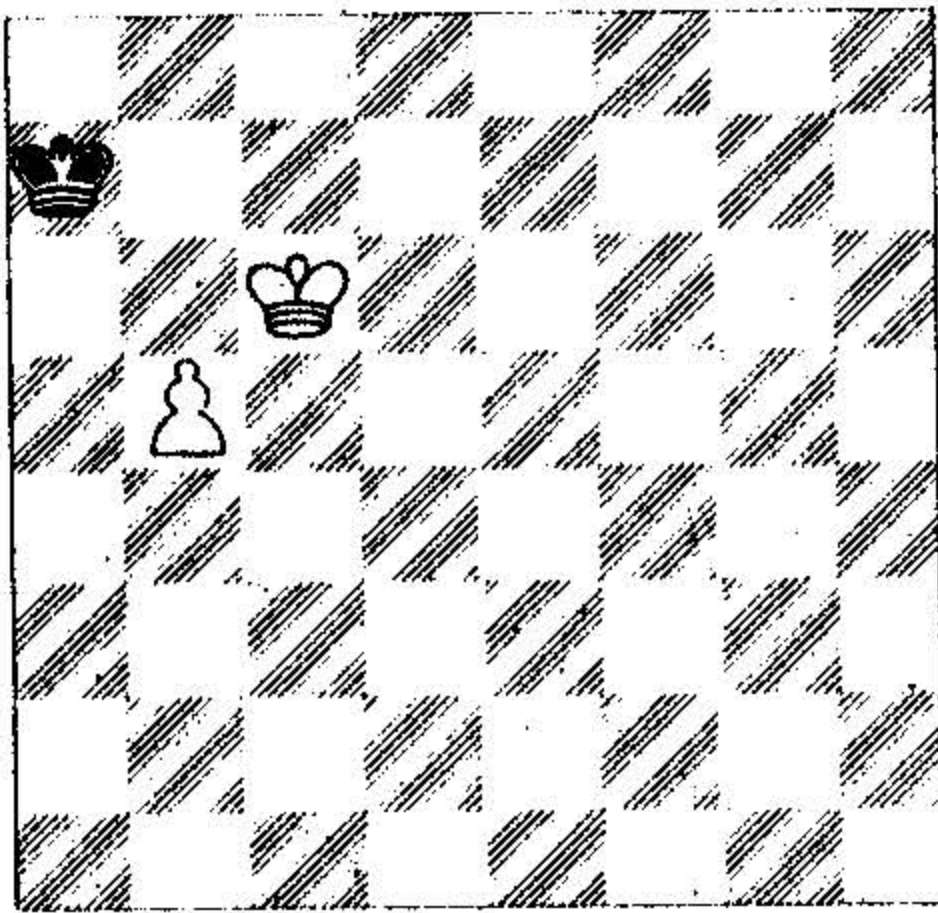
Yapmanız gereken çalışma oldukça kolay. Önce diyagramdaki pozisyonu tahta üzerine dizin (*Eğer diyagramdan izleyebilirsiniz daha dikkatli olmanız gereklidir!*) kontrol edin ve taşlara hiç dokunmadan bu basit ama düşündürten, bulunca büyük haz veren soruları çözmeye çalışın, cevaplarınızı bir yere not edin. (Satranç notasyonunu bilmeyenler hemen öğrenmeli) Tüm çalışma bitince cevaplarınızı kontrol edin, aldığınız puan sizin satranç rehberiniz olacaktır.

## KÜÇÜK BİR KOPYA

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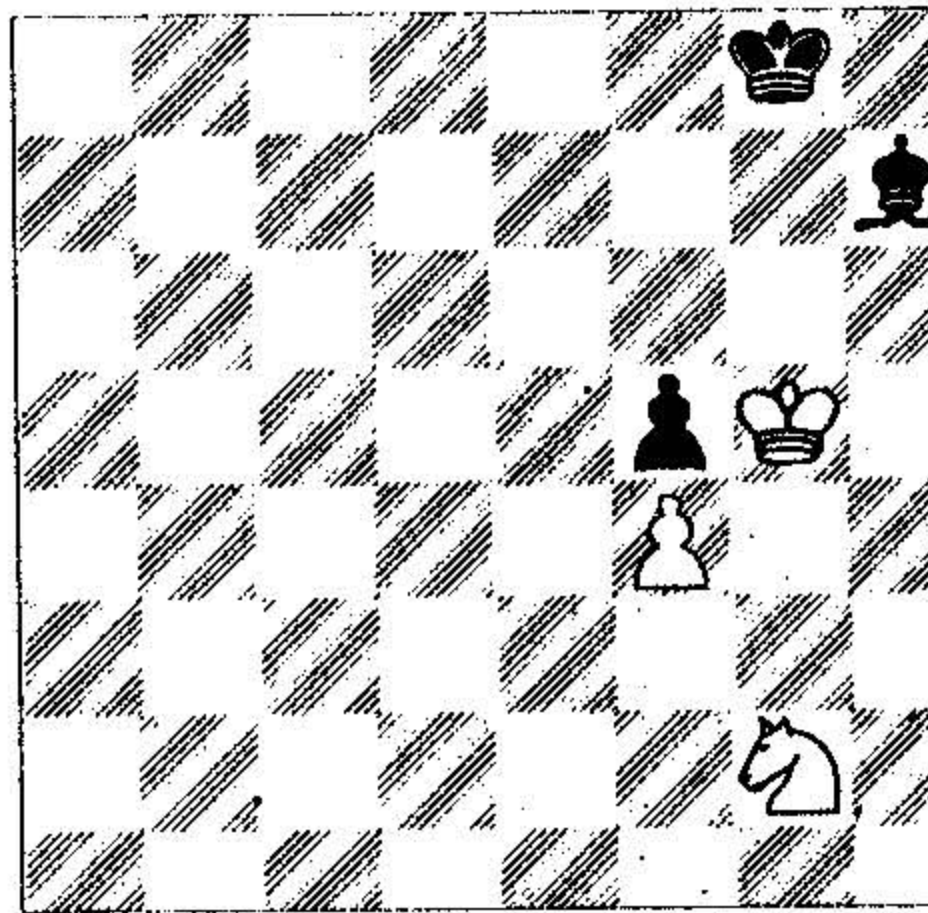
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### 1. soru 1 puan



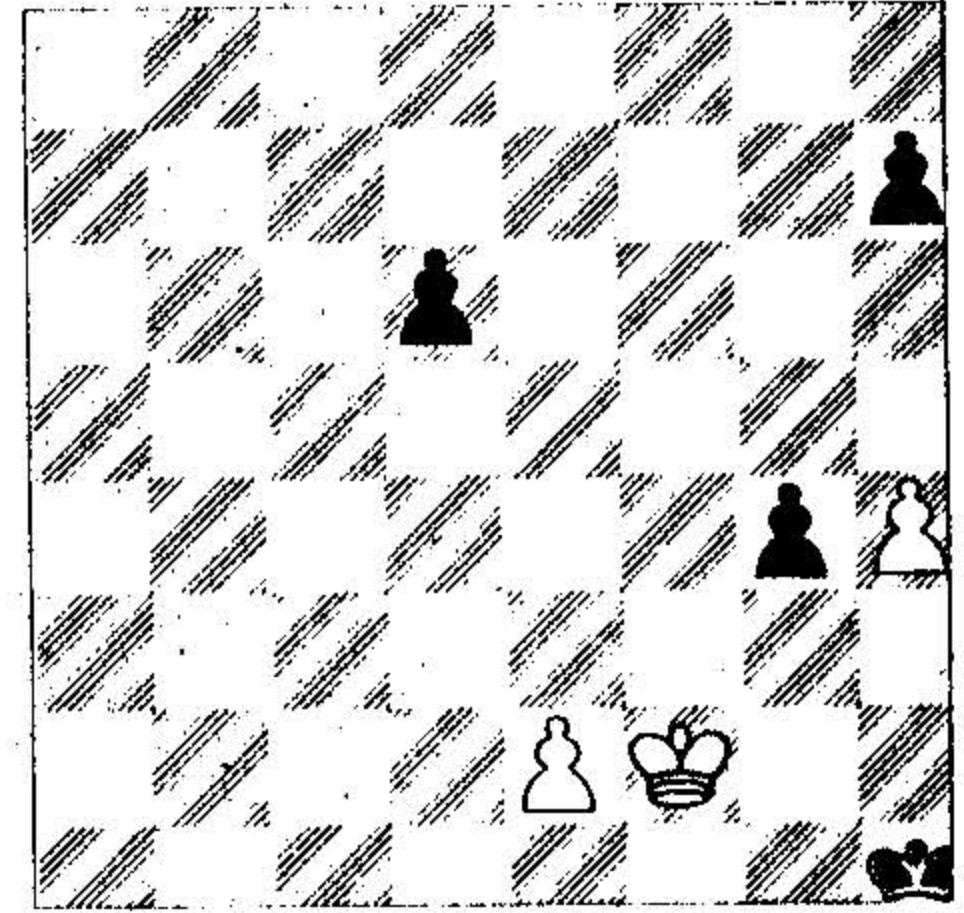
Beyaz oynar kazanır

### 2. soru 2 puan



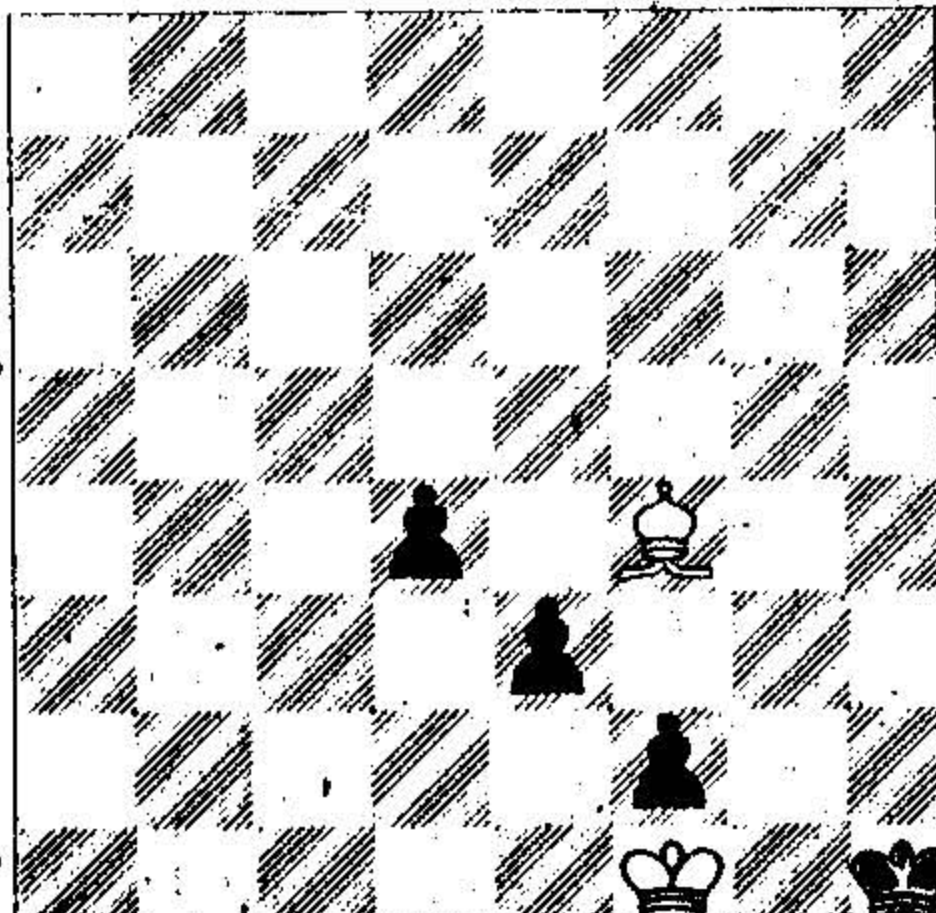
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### 3. soru 3 puan



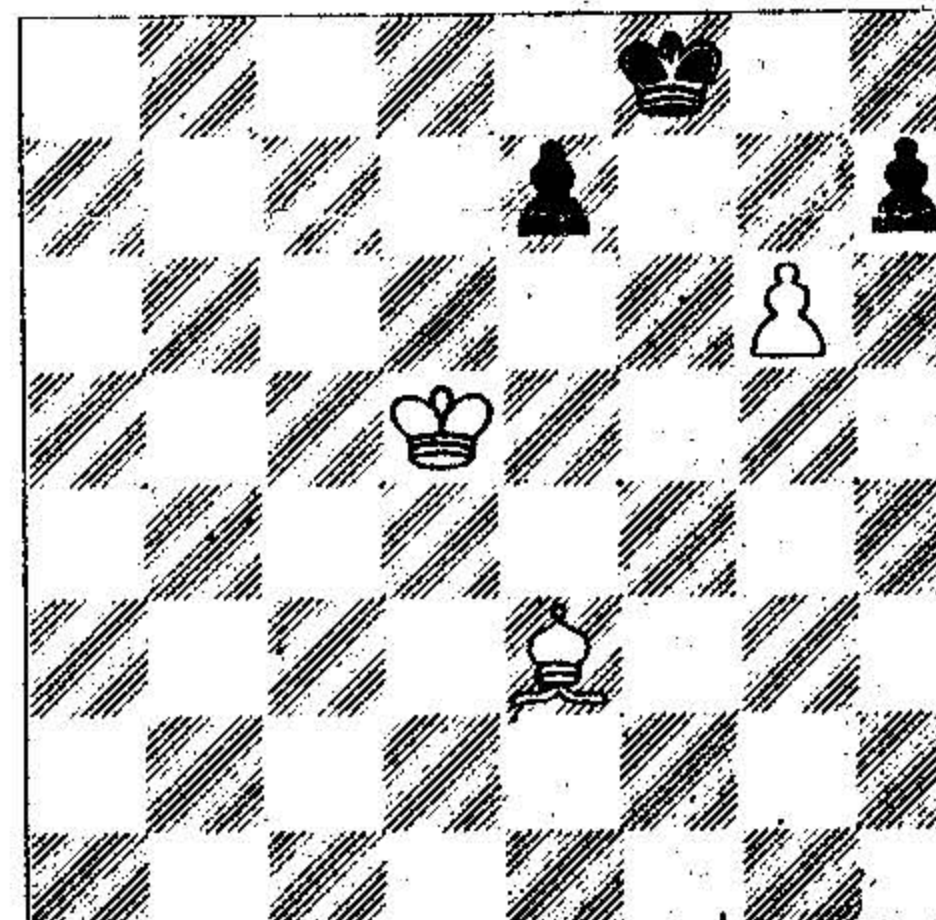
Beyaz oynar beraberlik

### 4. soru 4 puan



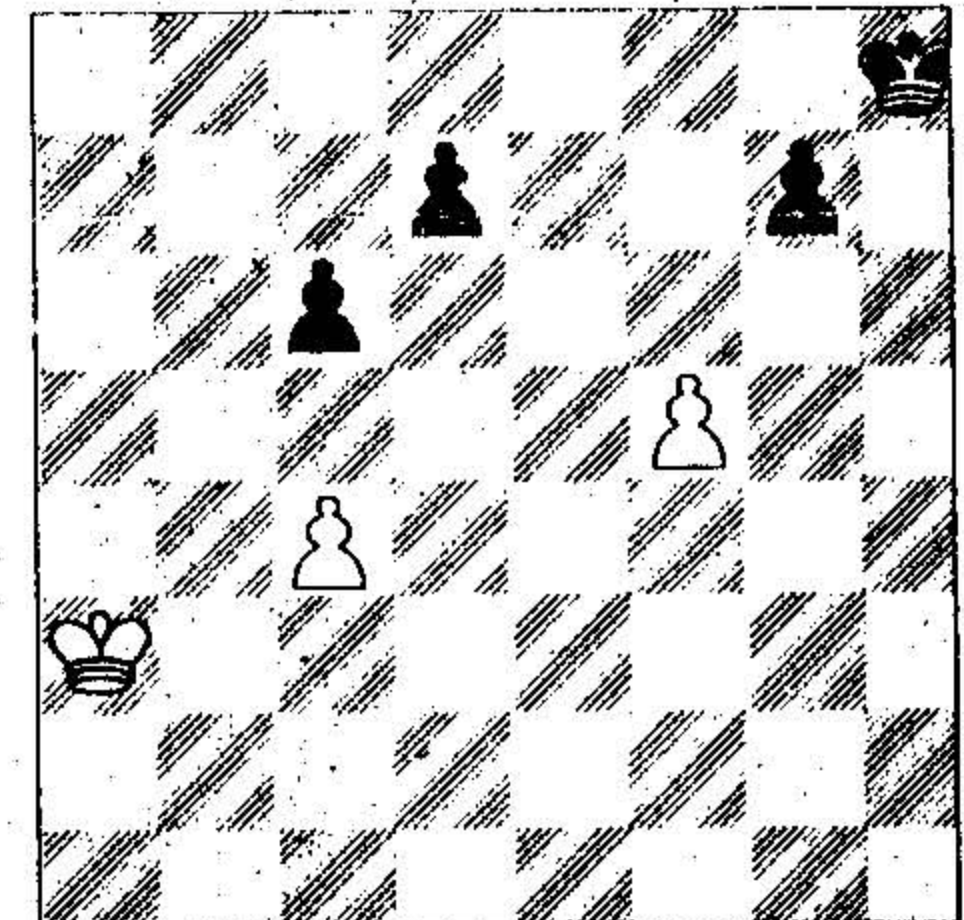
Beyaz oynar beraberlik

### 5. soru 6 puan



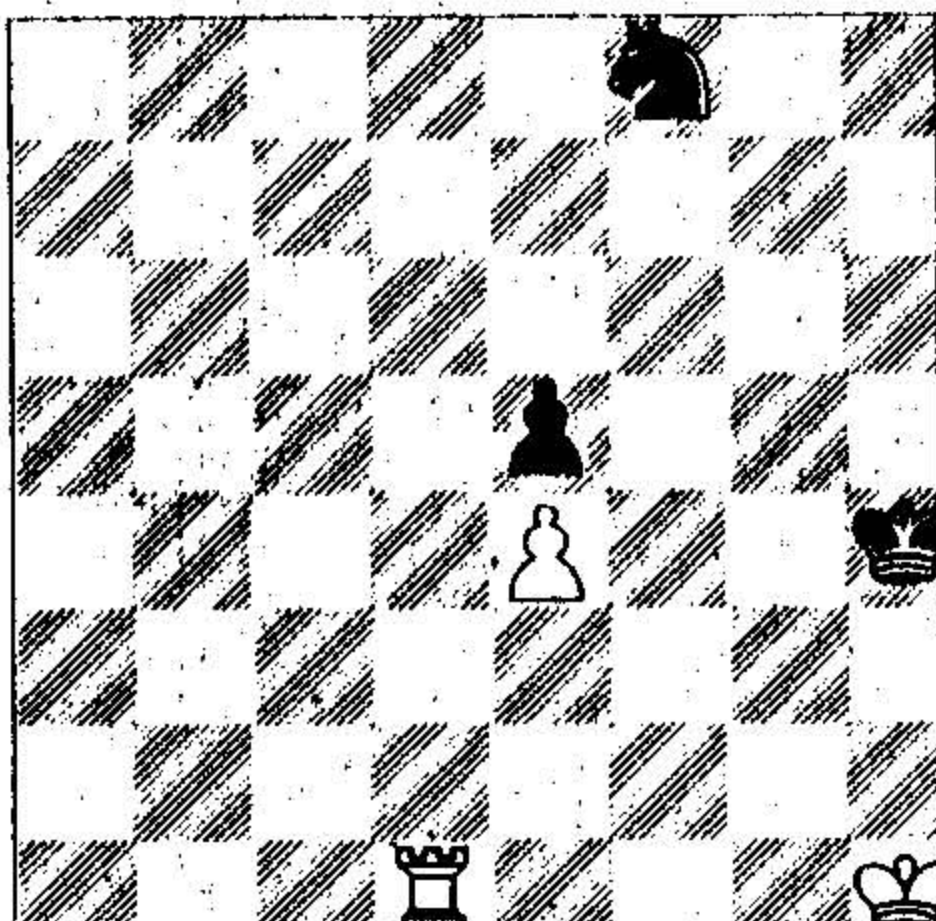
Beyaz oynar kazanır

### 6. soru 7 puan



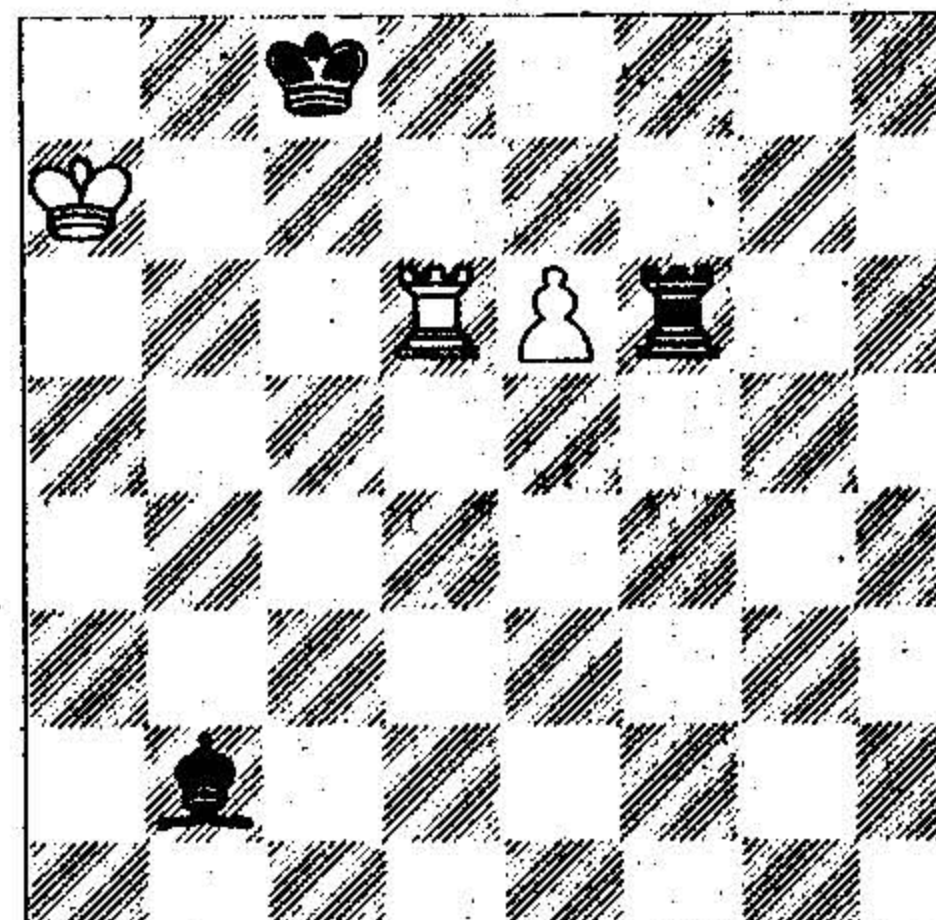
Beyaz oynar beraberlik

### 7. soru 78 puan



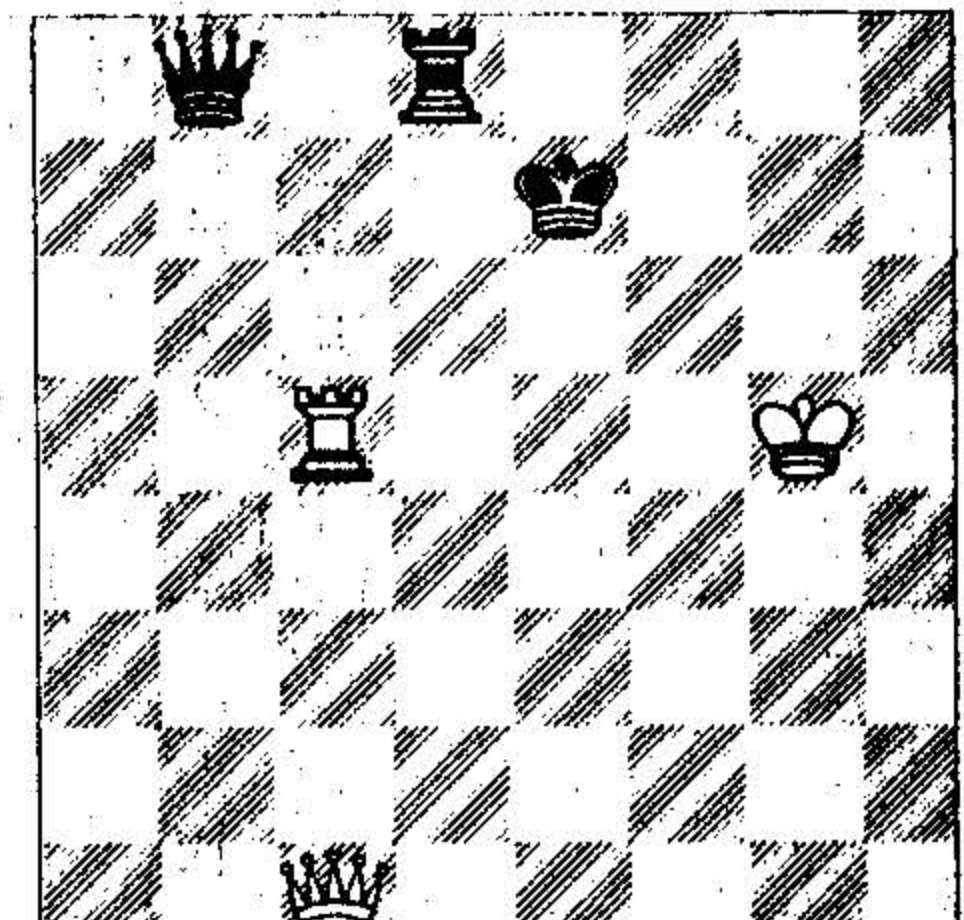
Beyaz oynar kazanır

### 8. soru 9 puan



Beyaz oynar kazanır

### 9. soru 10 puan



Beyaz oynar kazanır

(Çözümler ve puanlama gelecek sayıda)



# Hem eğlenin, hem öğrenin

Satranç oyununun, sadece büyük şehir kulüplerinde, satranç merkezlerinde, bu konuya uzun yıllar emek vermiş, yaşları her ne olursa olsun üst düzey oyuncular tarafından oynanmadığını biliyoruz. Satrancın bir spor, bir eğlence aracı olarak, dernekleşmemiş, kulüpleşmemiş, bir yapılaşma oluşturulamamış il ve ilçelerimizde ise öğretmen evlerinde, ilkokul, ortaokul, lise ve üniversitelerde, bazı iş yerlerinde öğle yadolarında, çocuk kulüplerinde, satranca meraklı ailelerin evlerinde, seyahatlerde, bazen boş zamanlarda fazlaca iddialı olmadan, basit ama düşündürten, zevk alarak ama yenilince biraz üzülerek oynandığını biliyoruz.

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## OKUYUCU İÇİN ÖNEMLİ NOT

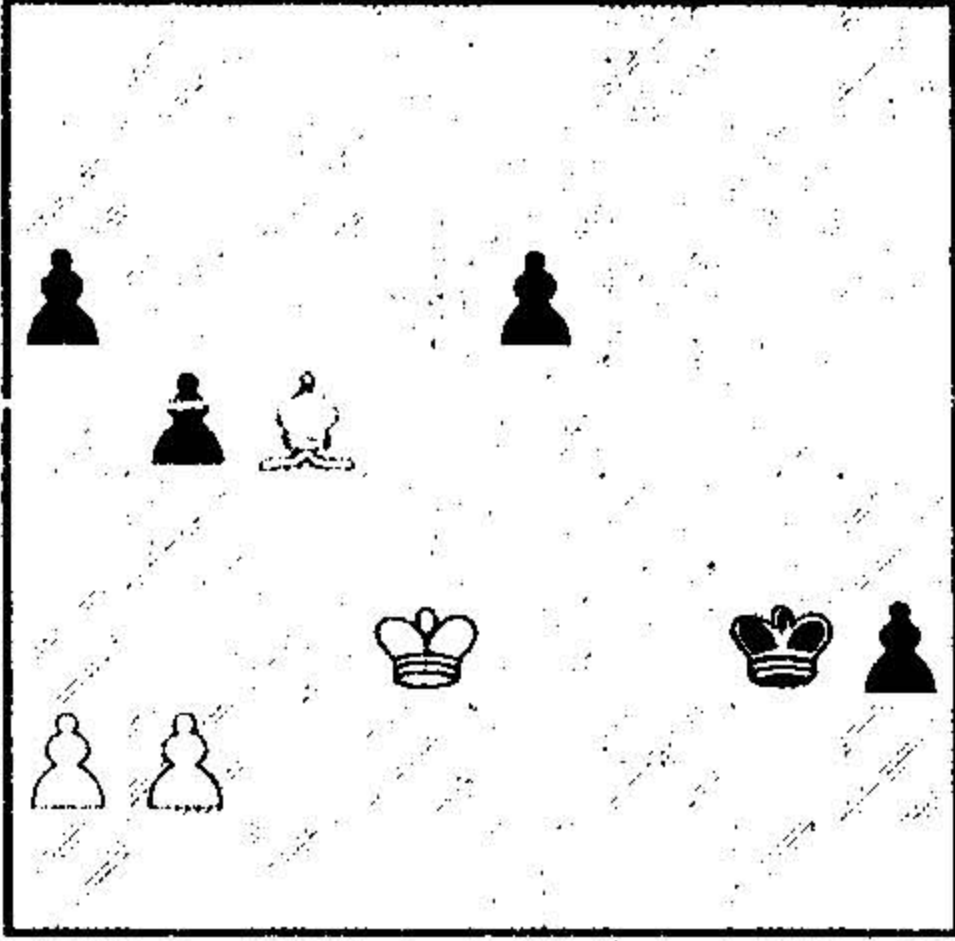
Yapmanız gereken çalışma oldukça kolay. Önce diyagramdaki pozisyonu tahta üzerine dizin (Eğer diyagramdan izleyebilirsiniz daha dikkatli olmanız gereklidir!) kontrol edin ve taşlara hiç dokunmadan bu basit ama düşündürten, bulunca büyük haz veren soruları çözmeye çalışın, cevaplarınızı bir yere not edin. (Satranç notasyonunu bilmeyenler hemen öğrenmeli) Tüm çalışma bitince cevaplarınızı kontrol edin, aldığınız puan sizin satranç rehberiniz olacaktır.

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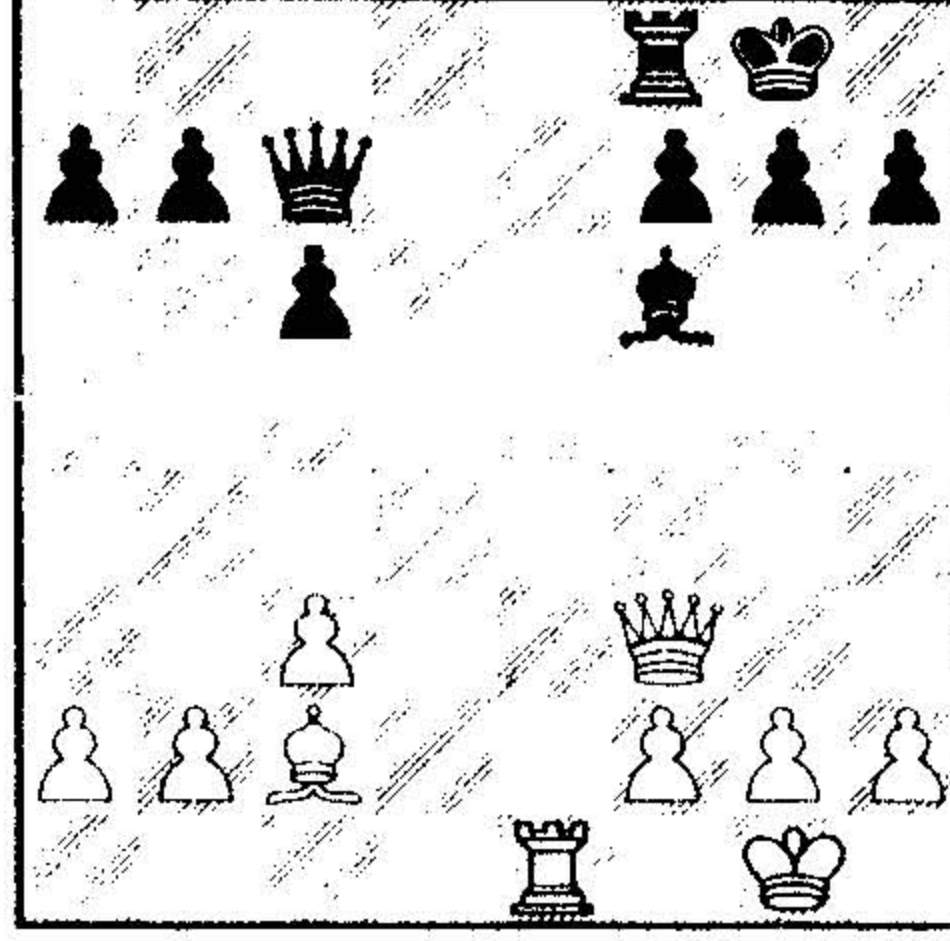
## UNUTMAYIN HER SORUNUN BİR ÇÖZÜMÜ VARDIR

1. Soru 1 Puan



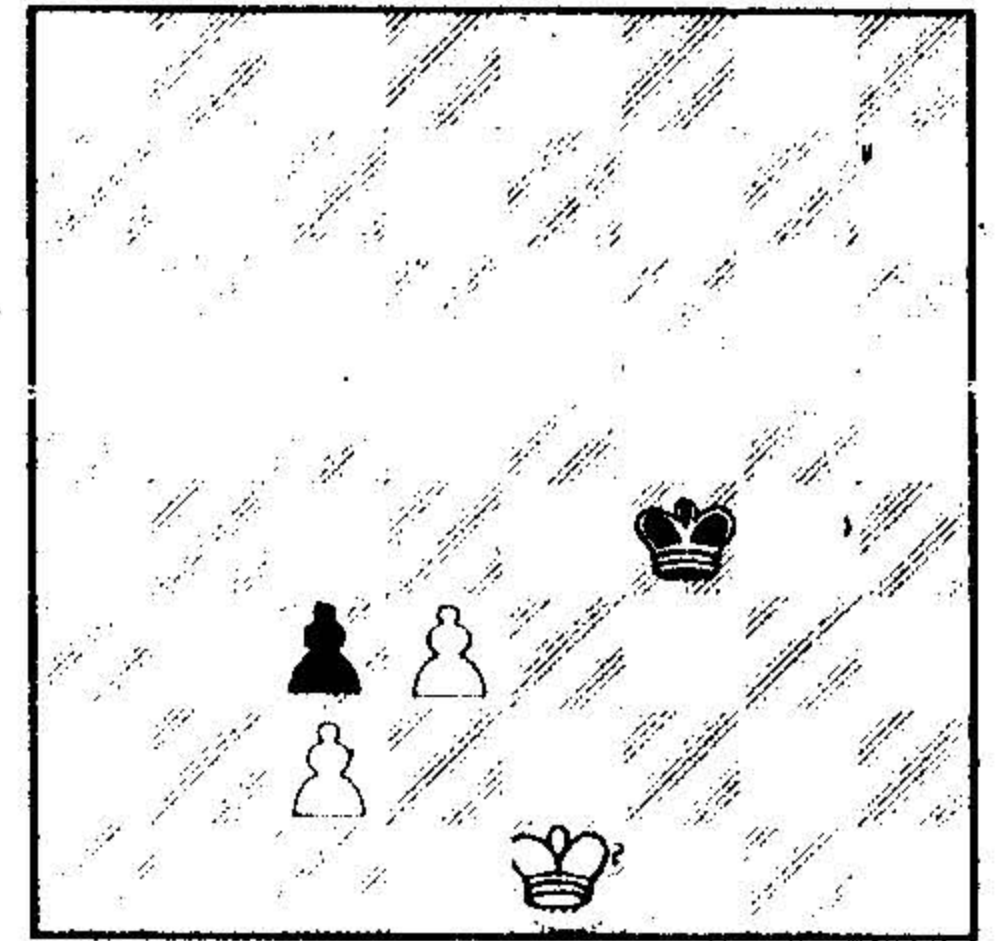
Siyah oynar kazanır

2. Soru 2 Puan



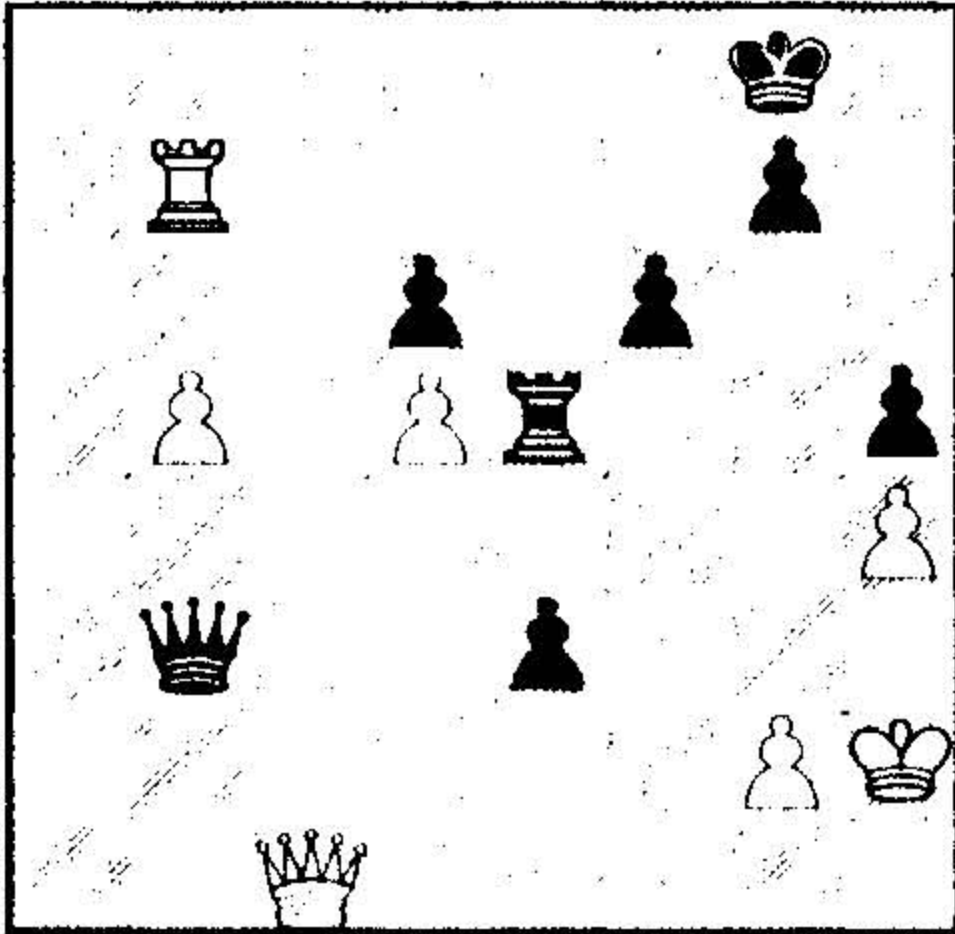
Beyaz oynar kazanır

3. Soru 3 Puan



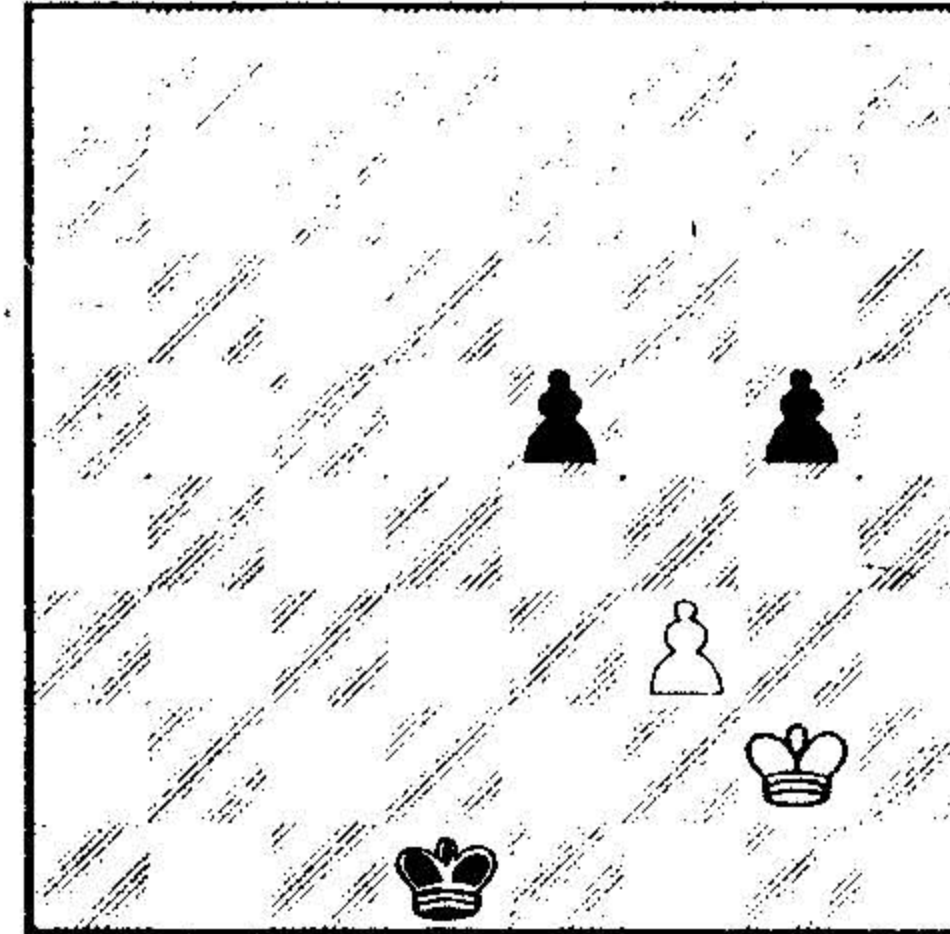
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4. Soru 4 Puan



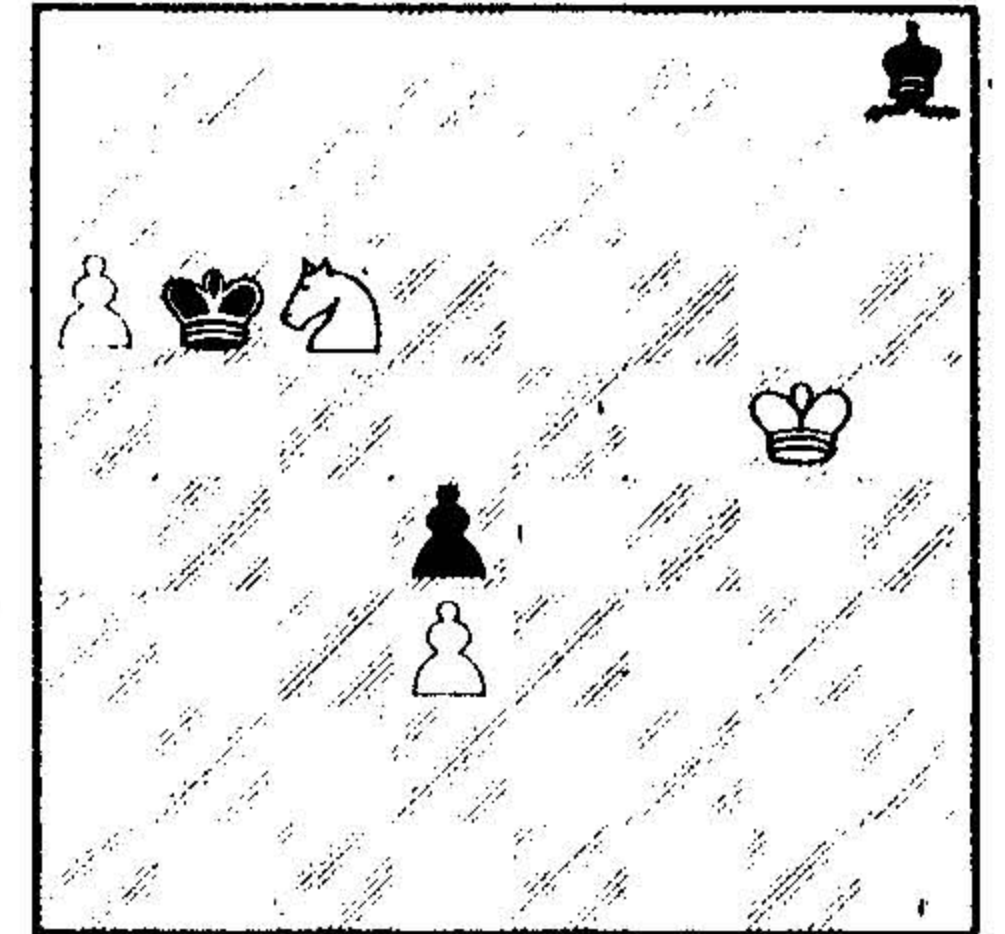
Siyah oynar kazanır

5. Soru 6 Puan



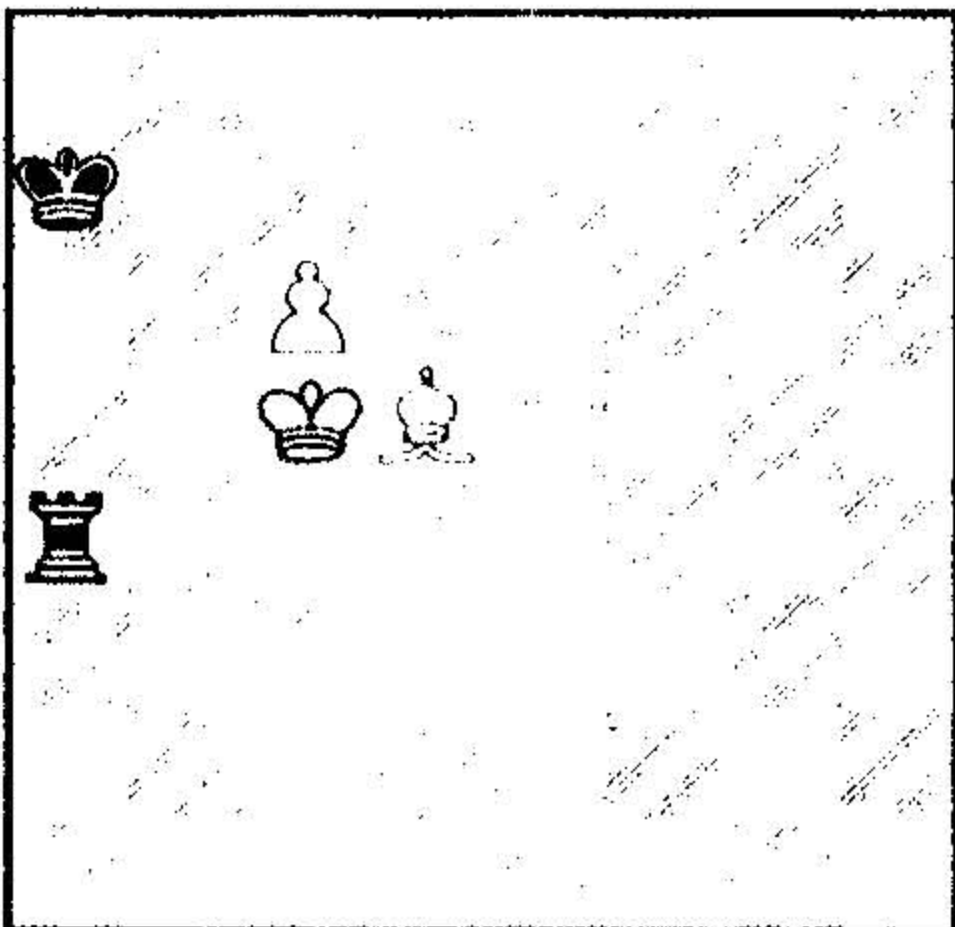
Beyaz oynar kazanır

6. Soru 7 Puan



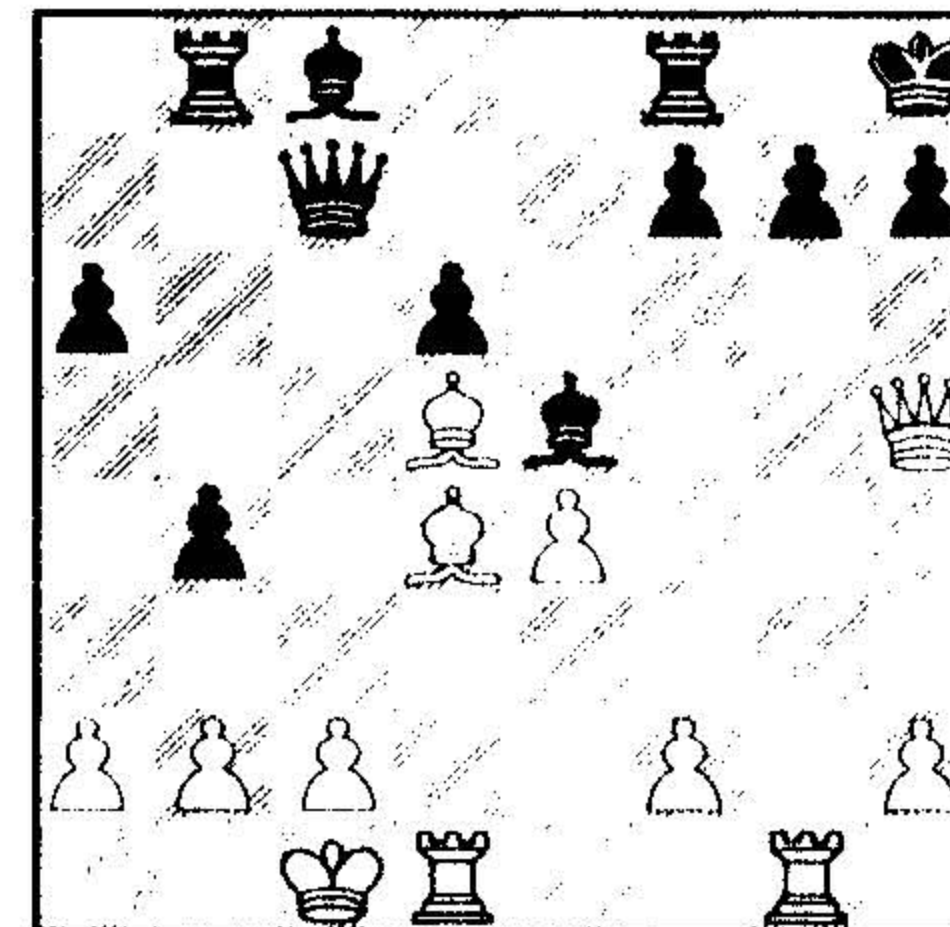
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7. Soru 8 Puan



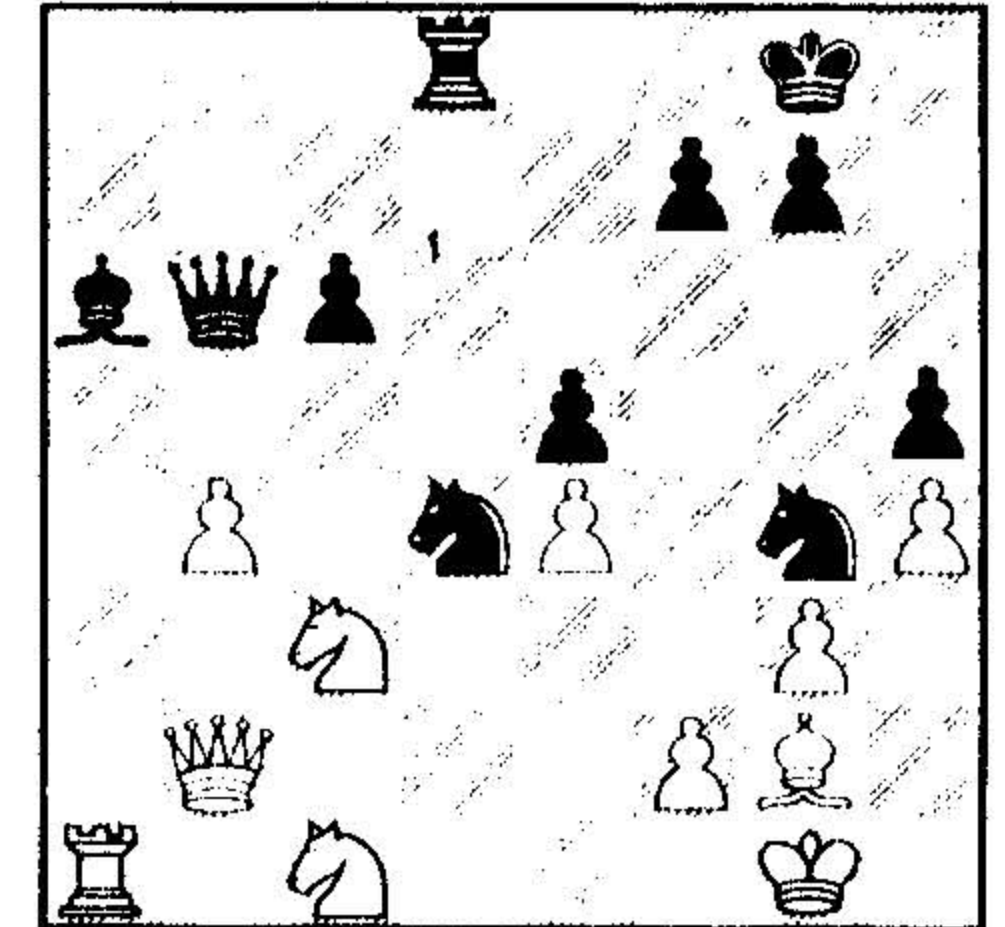
Beyaz oynar kazanır

8. Soru 9 Puan



Beyaz oynar kazanır

9. Soru 10 Puan



Beyaz oynar kazanır



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## OKUYUCU İÇİN ÖNEMLİ NOT

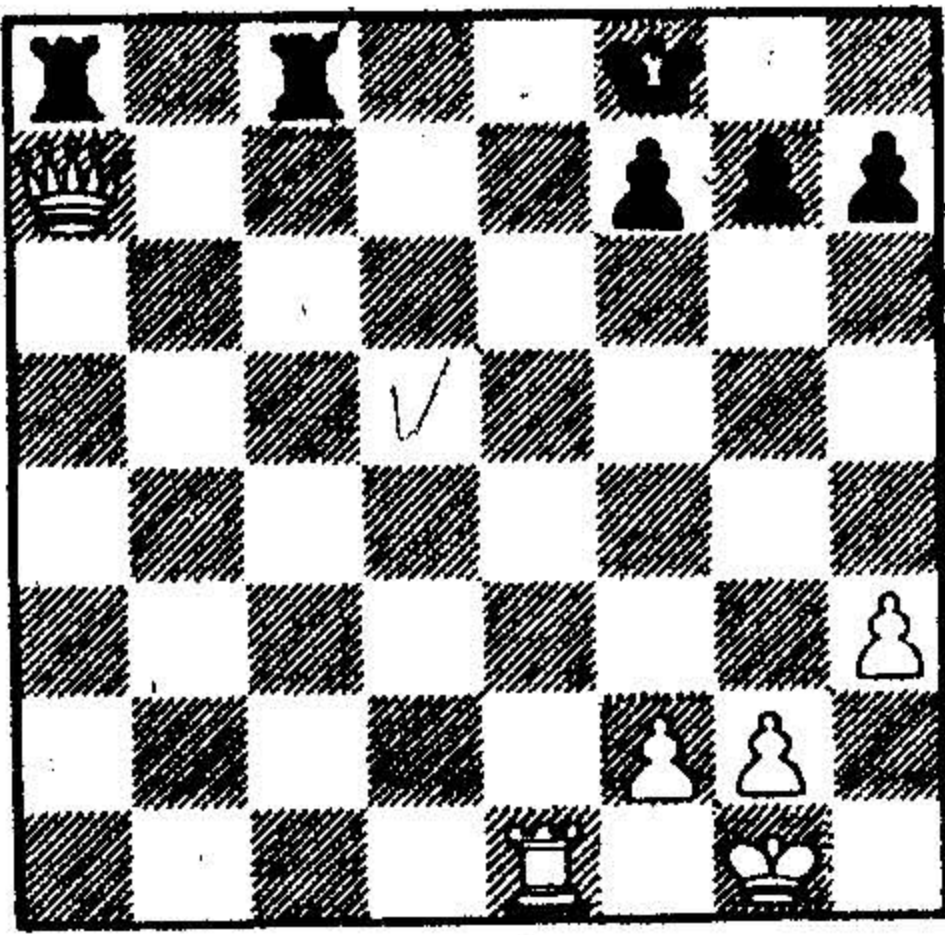
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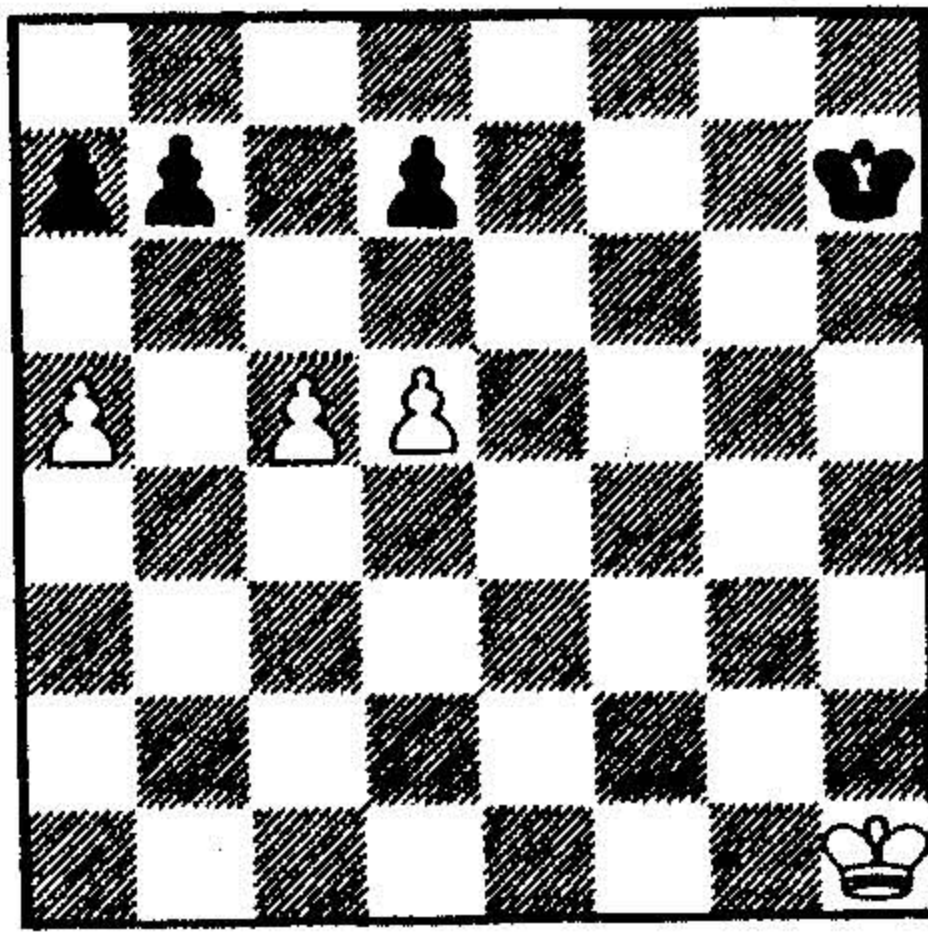
**UNUTMAYIN HER SORUNUN BİR ÇÖZÜMÜ VARDIR.**

1. soru 1 puan



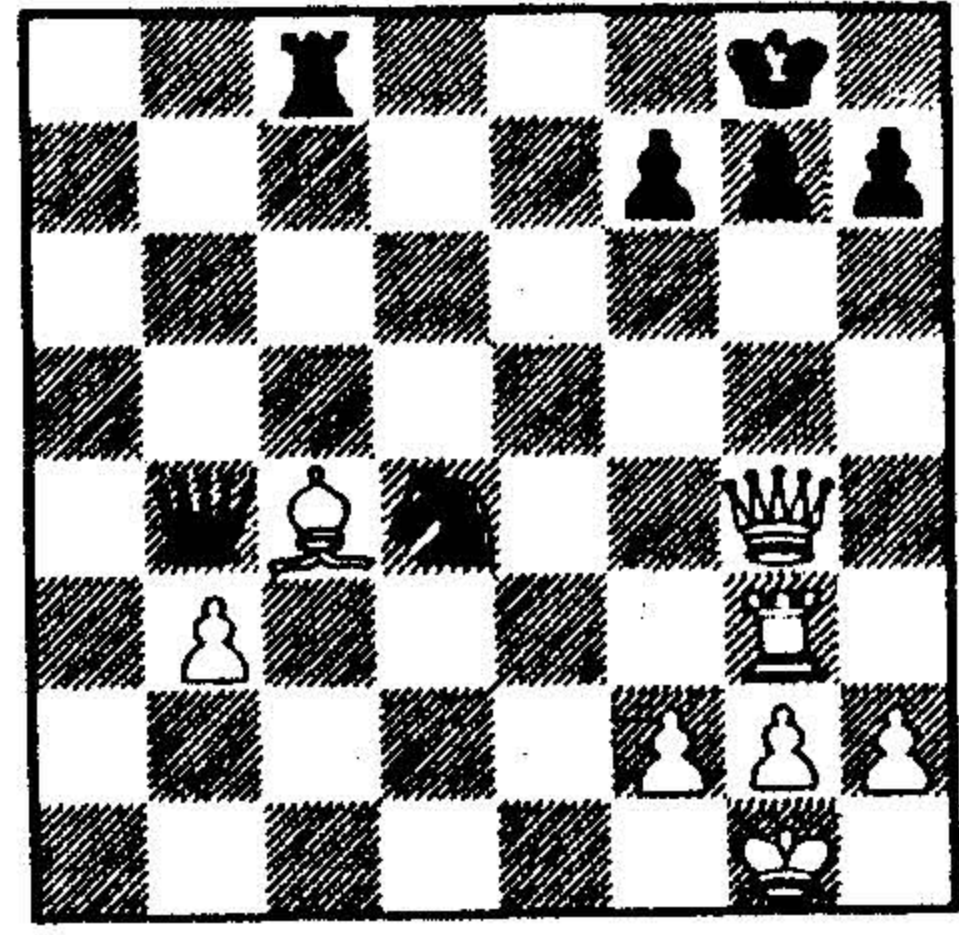
Beyaz oynar, kazanır

2. soru 2 puan



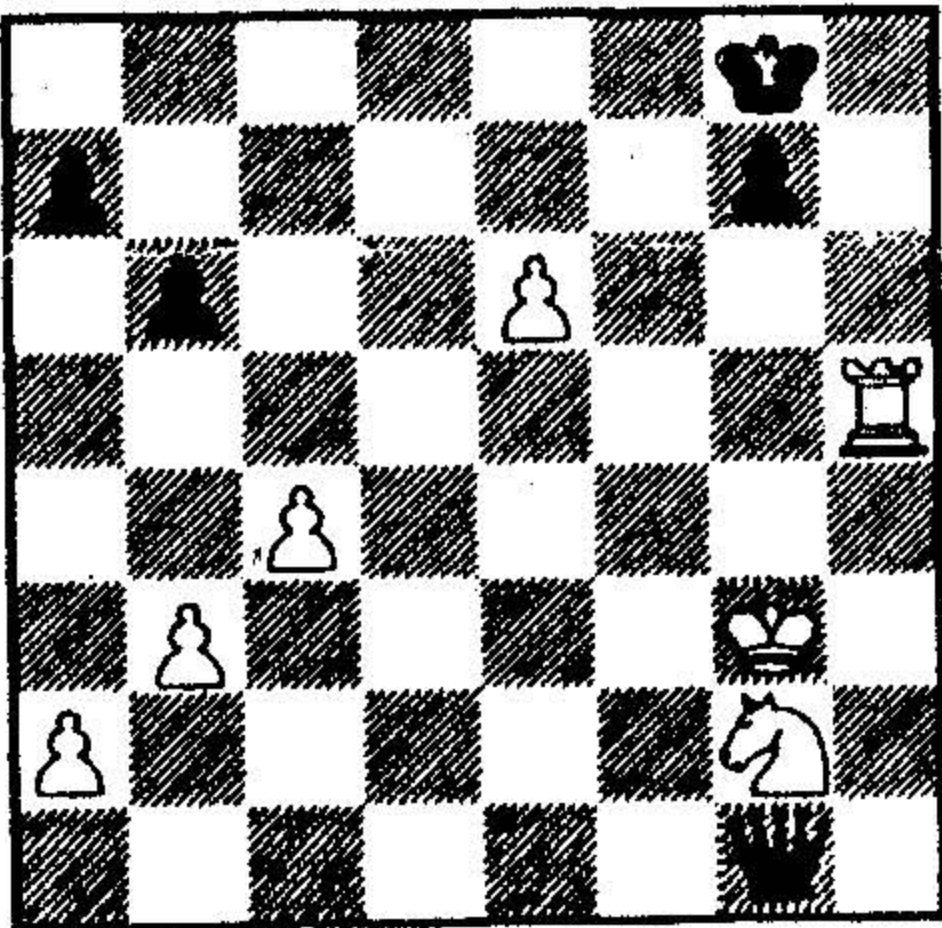
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3. soru 3 puan



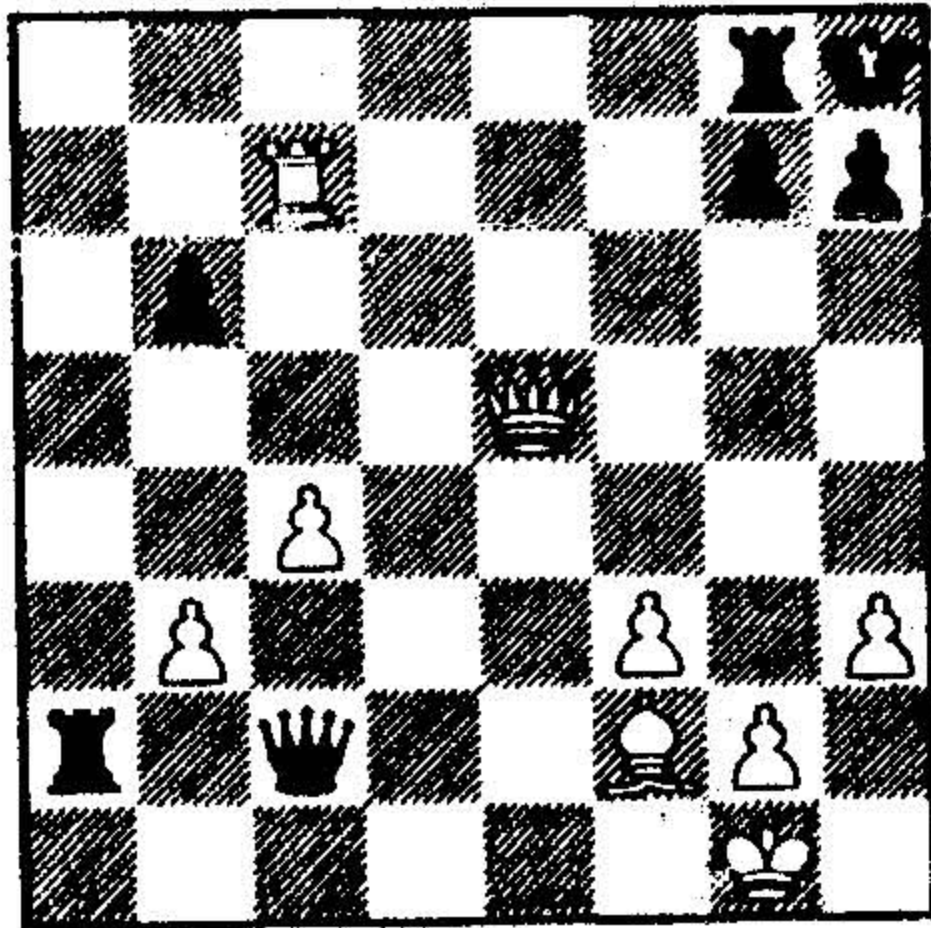
Siyah oynar, kazanır

4. soru 4 puan



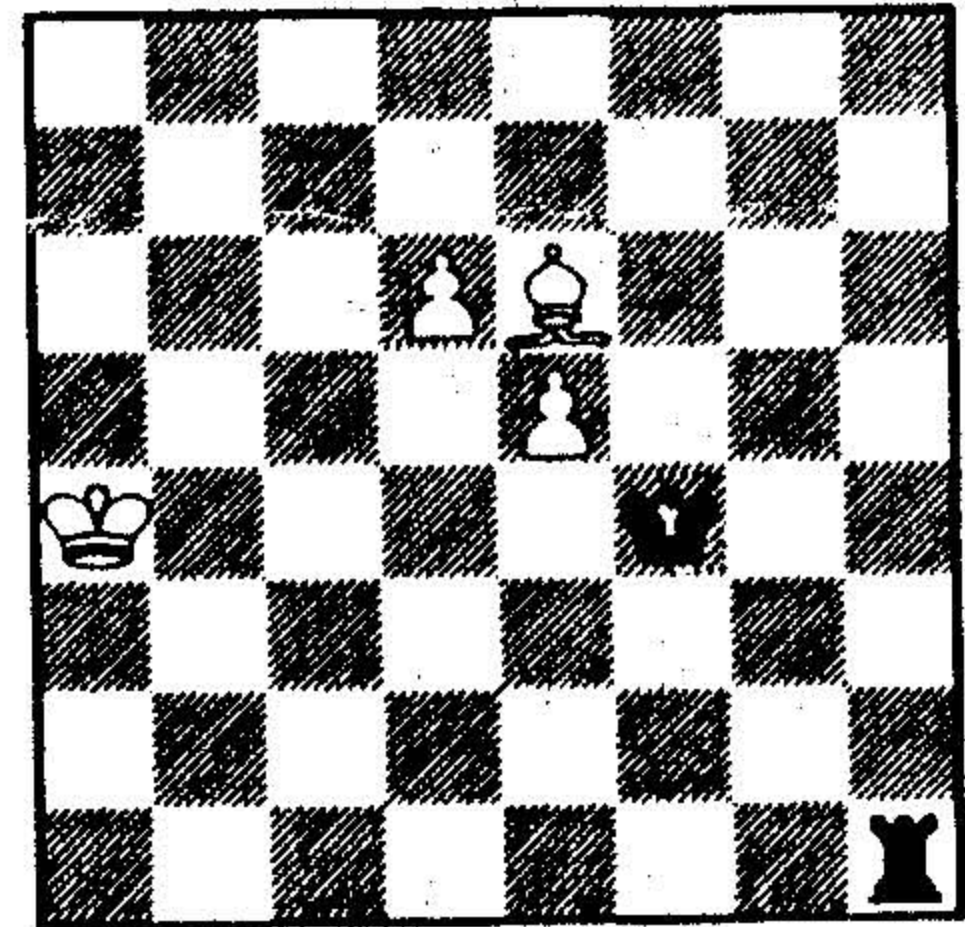
Beyaz oynar, kazanır

5. soru 6 puan



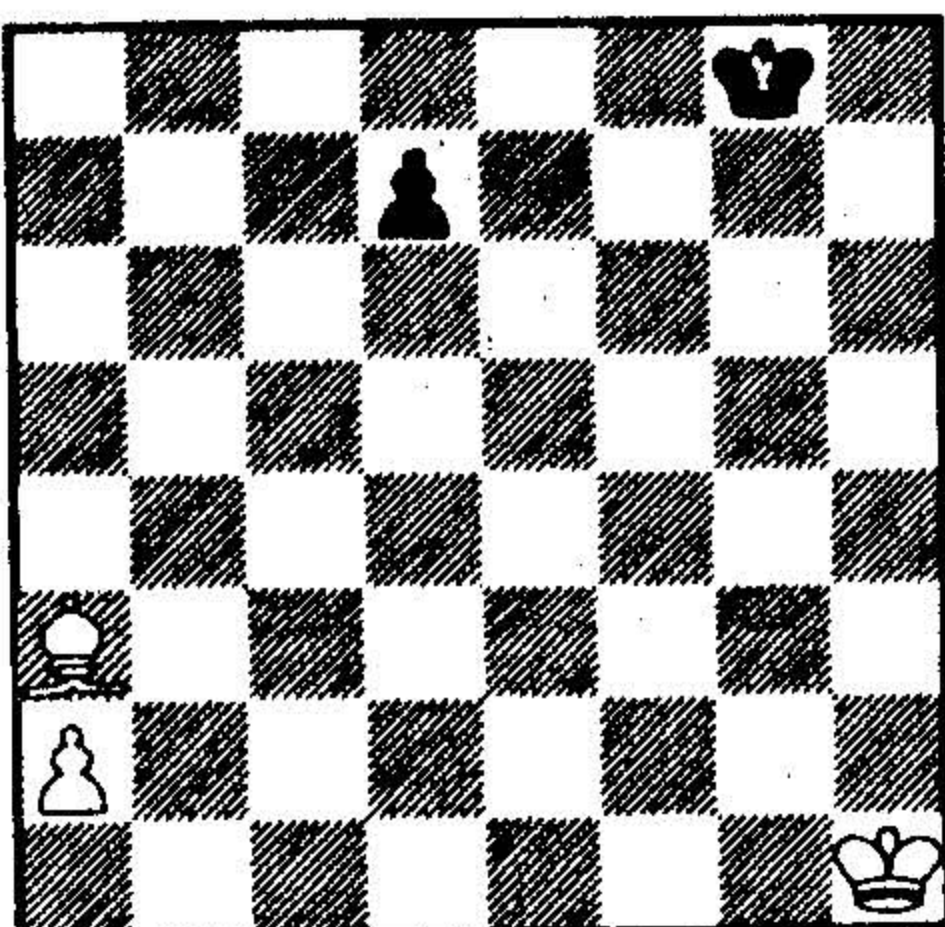
Beyaz oynar, kazanır

6. soru 7 puan



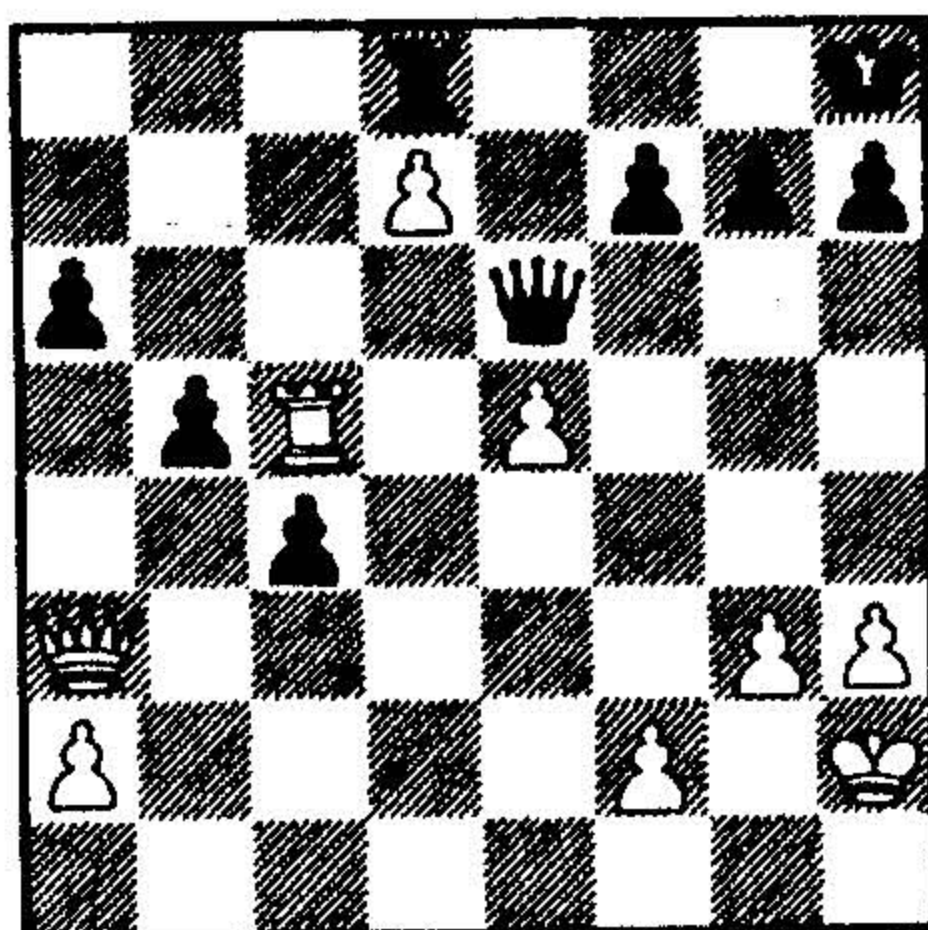
Beyaz oynar, kazanır

7. soru 8 puan



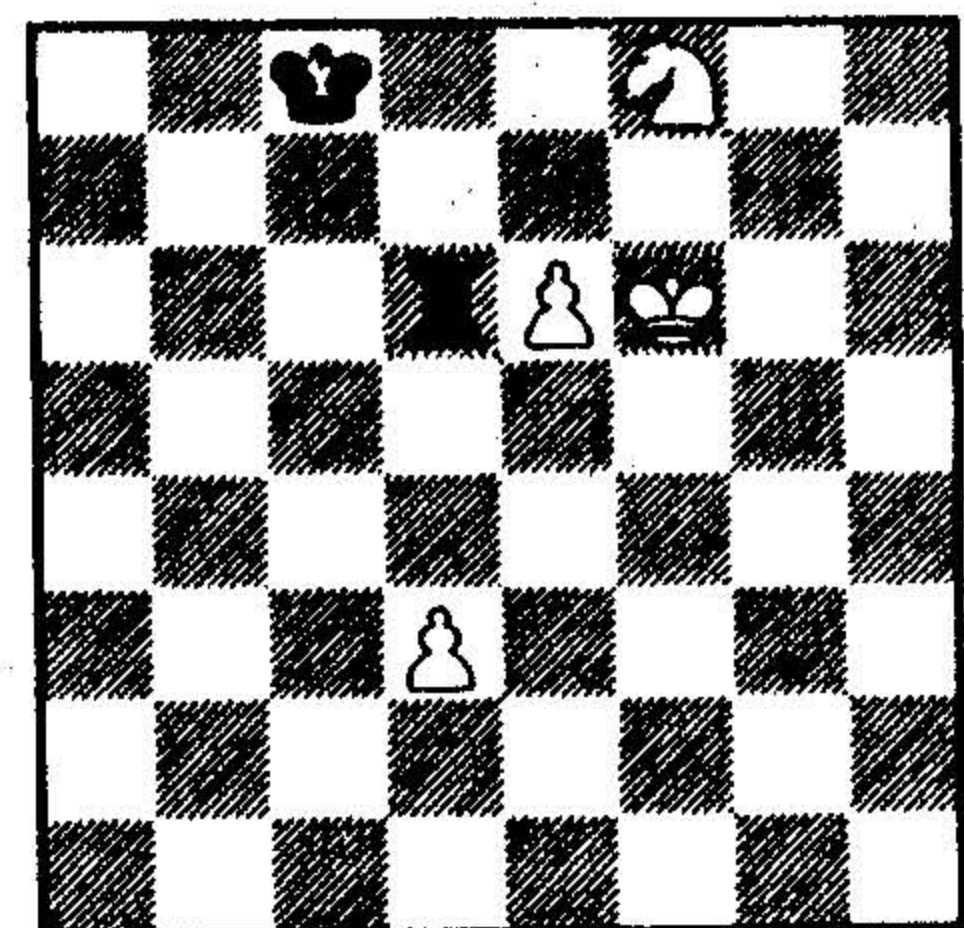
Beyaz oynar, kazanır

8. soru 9 puan



Beyaz oynar, kazanır

9. soru 10 puan



Beyaz oynar, kazanır

**Çözümler gelecek sayıda**